

## Communists 'will struggle' to hold on to power democratically

# Move to end one-party rule by Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gorbachov yesterday bowed to pressure to end the Communist Party's guaranteed right to rule and held out the prospect of a Soviet Union in which the heirs of the Bolsheviks would have to compete for power.

The concessions were proposed the day after a 300,000-strong demonstration in Moscow showed that the reform movement inside and outside the party was gathering a momentum of its own.

Mr Gorbachov, in his keynote address to what he has called a crisis summit of the party Central Committee, said that political pluralism in the Soviet Union was growing and that it could "lead to the creation at some stage of parties". He emphasized the need for the party to rid itself of all vestiges of Stalinism and proposed bringing forward the next 28th party congress by another three months, to late June or July.

The congress was originally scheduled for the spring of

1991, but was last year brought forward to October.

The President said that the Communists were intending to "struggle to retain the status of ruling party" but would do so "strictly within the framework of the democratic process, giving up any legal or political advantages ... and co-operating with other social and political forces".

The Soviet party leader opened the way for "round-table" talks with opposition

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groups, like those held in several East European countries, but the type of acceptable opposition group appeared to be restricted.

He declared: "The Soviet Communist Party is prepared to act with due account of the new circumstances, co-operate and conduct a dialogue with all organizations honouring the Soviet Constitution and the social system."

Mr Gorbachov also proposed changes in the party structure and a smaller Central Committee, cut from about 400 members to around 200.

Shortly after Mr Gorbachov had finished addressing the opening session of the summit at the Kremlin, representatives of the reform groups which had organized Sunday's mass demonstration in Moscow held a press conference to register a formal protest against what they saw as scurrilous reporting of their action by Tass.

The official news agency had accused the organizers of giving a platform to extremists who threatened violence.

The organizers, calling for a full retraction and the dismissal of the Tass director, promised a nationwide demonstration in three weeks' time - the week before local and republic elections.

The Tass report, also published in the official media in condemning the demonstration, which was covered positively and in detail by Moscow radio and television.

The crisis atmosphere in which the summit began was compounded by an account published in the party newspaper of last week's Kremlin meeting between Mr Gorbachov and representatives of coal miners from the Kuzbass

in Siberia, the scene of a long strike during the summer.

Mr Gorbachov described the seriousness of the national situation, and revealed that he had been working on his speech to the summit until the small hours.

The long narrative on the miners' meeting seemed designed to convey to *Pravda* readers that Mr Gorbachov was fully in control, that he was a sincere and thorough reformer who would not stop at half-measures, that he was fully informed of the hardships facing workers as a result of *perestroika*, and that he was prepared to talk to workers' representatives selected outside the official channels.

By proposing to bring forward the party congress, Mr Gorbachov may have two aims: to speed up elections for congress delegates and so force a more *ad hoc* approach (possibly ending the selection of more reformists), and to reduce the period during which the present Central Committee can hold back controversial reforms, such as those on land-leasing and property ownership.

Meanwhile, evidence emerged to suggest that Mr Gorbachov had personally approved the pro-reform demonstration on the eve of the summit, possibly to mobilize support against Central Committee conservatives.

One of the protest organizers said that the Mayor of Moscow had consulted Mr Gorbachov before giving permission and had subsequently altered the modest route originally proposed to one which took in half the capital's inner ring-road and one of the city's most celebrated avenues, Gorky Street.

MADRID: Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical former member of the Politburo, has said the Soviet people are fed up with Mr Gorbachov and his days are numbered unless he looks for radical allies (Reuters reports).

In an interview published yesterday, Mr Yeltsin said the party must end its political monopoly, "the worst scourge of the Stalinist system".

He told *El Mundo*, the Spanish daily: "Gorbachov has deceived us and only a radical change will save him from the abyss towards which he is rushing."

"I believe his days are numbered if he does not ally with forces to his left.... He is going through his worst period, his situation has really deteriorated."



President under pressure: Representatives of Siberian coal miners airing their grievances at a stormy meeting with President Gorbachov in the Kremlin.

## Schools give 'raw deal' for 30% of children

By Douglas Broom  
Education Reporter

One in three schoolchildren is "getting a raw deal" from the state education system, the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools said yesterday.

In his annual report on the state of education in England and Wales, Mr Eric Bolton, head of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools, said that although standards of teaching were satisfactory or better for the majority there were serious problems of low achievement and poor teaching to be tackled.

The variations between standards in schools in different parts of the country was "a continuing worry" and children of the lowest ability suffered disproportionately from "poor and shoddy education".

Mr Bolton said: "Across schools and colleges around 70 to 80 per cent of the work seen was judged to be satisfactory or better and roughly one

third of it was adjudged good or very good.

"That is not a profile of a service in great difficulty about its general standards of work. But that picture must not hide the fact that there are serious problems of low and under-achievement, poor teaching and inadequate provision.

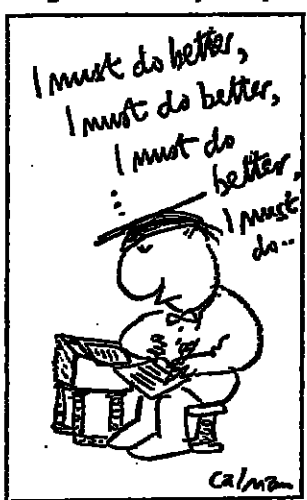
It is particularly troubling that in schools some 30 per cent of what HMI saw was judged poor or very poor. Those figures, if replicated throughout the system, represent a large number of pupils and students getting a raw deal."

The fact that less able pupils were "much more likely" to experience poor teaching was a "worryingly persistent feature of English education at all levels".

Mr Bolton was particularly critical of primary schools. "Very many" had hardly made a start on technology and had little idea how to do so. Despite the confident statements of educational theorists about the state of primary education, teaching and learning in art, music, drama and physical education were often shallow.

While the teaching of basic skills in maths, science and English was satisfactory, stan-

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## Patten 'to curb poll tax levels'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Ministers fear that the planned community charges will result in an increase of up to half a per cent in the retail price index, just when it is crucial to the Government to drive down the inflation rate, currently 7.7 per cent.

To keep damage to a minimum, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is said by colleagues to be ready to "change-cap" a record number of authorities, forcing them to reduce planned spending and so to bring down the community charges for their areas.

Last year, the independent committee which advises the Government on the compilation of the retail price index studied how the community charge should be reflected in the figures.

It concluded that there would be an automatic increase of 0.1 to 0.2 per cent on the introduction of the poll tax, before local authority

spending levels were set. That is because those likely to gain most from the community charge are high earners and the top 4 per cent are excluded from RPI calculations.

Rebates for students and others who have difficulty in meeting the charge in full will not affect the calculation of the RPI. The principle being that subsidies are not included unless they go to everybody.

Though the Government has said that community charge levels should average £278 per person, local authority associations have suggested that the average will be over £340.

Rates in the past represented 42 parts in 1000 of the RPI figures and the community charge will form a similar proportion from its introduction. But the precise effect on the RPI cannot be calculated until charges have been set by councils, some

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## Pound hits highest for 10 months

By Our City Staff

The pound ended at \$1.6950 in London yesterday - its highest level against the dollar for ten months - building on gains made in the foreign exchange markets last week.

Mr Gorbachov's remarks on political pluralism in the Soviet Union boosted the mark, and sterling finished 0.2 points higher on its trade-weighted index at 89.4. This was close to the level preceding its decline after Mr Nigel Lawson resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

New credit advanced to consumers in December was £3.71 billion, down £600 million on November 1989. Growth in retail sales in December was revised down to 1.9 per cent, indicating that the Christmas consumer "binge" had been less serious than previously thought.

Pound rises, page 21

## EC is to review its Pretoria sanctions

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

European Community foreign ministers, at Britain's urging, yesterday welcomed the reforms announced by President de Klerk of South Africa, and said that if they were followed by further measures, the Twelve would consider lifting their sanctions.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, predicted after the meeting that Nelson Mandela would be free by the time the foreign ministers again meet in Dublin on February 20, adding that the EC statement was "highly satisfactory".

He told fellow ministers at the meeting that Mr de Klerk's announcement was a "courageous act" and that the Community ought to underline that fact in its response.

Britain, which has been at odds with its partners in the past over sanctions, pressed hardest for the statement, but

the Dutch and Portuguese also supported the need to welcome Mr de Klerk's move.

LONDON: Mrs Thatcher and the Rev Jesse Jackson last night disagreed on maintaining sanctions against South Africa (Andrew McEwen writes).

Mr Jackson, a former US presidential contender, tried to dissuade the Prime Minister from her declared intention to seek agreement from Commonwealth and European Community partners to remove some sanctions.

A Downing Street statement said: "Both shared the same objective of ending apartheid and a proper constitution for South Africa, but had a different view of how to get there."

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## Appeal for Romanian child victims of Aids

By Our Foreign Staff

A charity in London yesterday appealed for donations to help Aids sufferers in Romania, as concern grew about the country's paediatric Aids epidemic. Dr Jacques Lebas, a leading French expert on Aids, said the spread of the disease was more serious than had been seen anywhere in the world, including Africa.

Official Romanian statistics published yesterday revealed that 28 per cent of the 1,025 Romanian children so far

tested were HIV positive, with 60 per cent already showing symptoms of full-blown Aids.

The Terrence Higgins Trust, a charity which advises and assists Aids sufferers, yesterday launched an appeal for donations which will be sent directly to the Aids ward in the Victor Babes Infectious Diseases Hospital in Bucharest. Donations may be sent to the trust at 52 to 54 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8JU, tel: 01 831 0330.

Tragic legacy, page 8

## Police chief quits, saddened over Hillsborough

By Peter Davenport

The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, whose force was heavily criticized by the Hillsborough disaster inquiry, is to leave the police service, it was disclosed yesterday.

Announcing his decision to retire, Mr Peter Wright admitted in an interview with *The Times* that he was going with a sense of injustice at the amount of blame levelled at his men for the events leading to the deaths of 95 Liverpool supporters.

At his Sheffield headquarters Mr Wright spoke of the events of April 15 last year and their aftermath with an intensity not heard before. He had no sense of bitterness, he said, but was left with a feeling of sadness because nothing had been done on that "terrible" day

justified the deaths of 95 people. He said: "I walked around the gymnasium (turned into a temporary morgue at Hillsborough) and looked at the people there, the families who were coming in, and at my officers. They were down, there was not one there who was not

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deeply and traumatically affected by what they were having to deal with.

"The questioning that was taking place in their minds then was the questioning that took place in my mind. What went wrong, what could we have done, what should we have done. What didn't we do?"

"That period lasted right through and

after the inquiry by Lord Justice Taylor and I have to say now that the feeling in my force of the Taylor inquiry is one of injustice. Officers feel they have carried a much larger burden of responsibility for the event than was their due.

"I am not seeking to say we were perfect or that things couldn't have been done differently and perhaps had a different end product. But no decisions were taken with malice or that were demonstrably wrong, it is just that they turned out in the event not, perhaps, to have been as effective as other decisions might have been. But we don't know."

He said his men found it "inexplicable" for the inquiry to find that a proportion of fans were under the influence of drink but that they had no effect on the "terrible outcome."



Mr Wright: "Feeling in my force is one of injustice."

### INSIDE

#### Sharansky on his world

● "The most important thing is to hear the free soul within ourselves." It is nearly four years since Nathan Sharansky, for so long a symbol of Jewish resistance to Soviet oppression, obtained permission to leave Russia and settle in Israel. How does he view the changes in his homeland? On page 11, Barbara Amiel finds the answers

● The ghost factories... In the second part of our series on the decline of British industry, Tom Bower examines the threat posed by foreign competition: page 25

### Portfolio

#### PLATINUM

● There were three winners of yesterday's £2,000 prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000: Page 27

### TOMORROW

● Our regular Antiques & Collectables feature reports on the growing popularity of prints as an investment

### P & O bid

Peninsular & Orient, the shipping to property group, has linked up with Chelsfield, the private property group, to launch a £441 million takeover bid for Laing Properties: Page 21

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Wildcat strikes hit Ford plants

The apparently clear-cut decision by 32,000 workers at Ford to accept the company's 10.2 per cent pay offer was cast aside last night as wildcat strikers caused widespread disruption (Kevin Eason writes).

More than 1,600 electricians walked out in protest at the two-year deal, joining 700 craftsmen already on unofficial action. The electricians were starting an indefinite strike, backed by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union.

However, nearly 700 craftsmen members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, on strike for three weeks, now look increasingly unlikely to get official union backing for their action, which has caused the lay-off of thousands of workers in Britain and Belgium.

Mr Arthur Barklem, spokesman for the AEU shop stewards at Halewood, said that the craftsmen at the Merseyside plant would stay out whether or not they got support from other Ford workers.

## Doctor murdered

Police are hunting the killer of a hospital consultant who was beaten to death at his home in Middlesbrough, Cleveland. The body of Dr David Birkett, aged 56, a consultant dermatologist based at the Carter Bequest Hospital, Middlesbrough, was found by his daughter on Sunday. He died from severe head injuries after being hit several times with a heavy, blunt instrument. Det Chief Inspector Brian Leonard, who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "There is no sign of a break-in at the house. His killer may have come to the front door and been invited in."

## £500m airport plan

Manchester airport is to spend £500 million on doubling its capacity to 21 million passengers a year by 2000, it was disclosed yesterday. The investment will include a second terminal, a rail link, a new hotel, technical improvements and environmental protection. At an exhibition of the plans, Mr Gill Thompson, chief executive of the airport, said environmental schemes included landscaping the new terminal to make it blend with its surroundings.

## River pollution fine

The Northumbrian Water Authority was fined £1,000 yesterday over a chemical leak which killed 218 river trout. The prosecution was brought by the National Rivers Authority eight days after the water authority was set up last September. Magistrates at Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, were told that sodium hypochlorite, a disinfectant, had leaked into Waskerley Beck. The company admitted a charge of breaking the Water Act 1989.

## Shops case adjourned

Magistrates at Southport, Merseyside, yesterday adjourned hearing a test case under the Sunday trading laws until tomorrow. The DIY chain B&Q faces two charges of violating the Shops Act in what is thought to be the first case since a European Court ruling which said national courts must decide whether the Act unlawfully restrains Community trade. The charges, brought by Sefton Borough Council, relate to two B&Q stores in Southport and Aintree.

## Westland warning

The Government warned Westland yesterday that it could lose its lead role in a £2 billion helicopter project vital to the company's survival (Nicholas Wood writes). A defence select committee report blamed Westland and the Ministry of Defence for soaring costs and delays to the EH101 Merlin replacement for the Sea King. Mr Michael Neubert, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, admitted the original contract with Westland had proved unsatisfactory.

## Legal training for non-law graduates

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Several polytechnics have sought Law Society approval to set up courses for non-law graduates wanting to train as solicitors because of the demand for students from outside the legal profession.

If all the applications are approved, it could add up to 300 to the 900 places a year for non-law graduates wanting to enter the legal profession.

About one in five students now on Law Society final courses are non-law graduates. The number is limited by the places on the Common Professional Examination standing at about 800 - which non-law graduates must take before embarking on the final course. Last year the CPE course was over-subscribed by about four applicants a place.

Ms Jenny Goddard, careers promoter at the Law Society, said: "A number of polytechnics have put in bids to run courses and two have been provisionally approved. 'Solicitors certainly are becoming more aware of graduates from other subjects. If they have a language, or a science or engineering background, it can be very useful.'"

The search by employers both in and outside the legal profession for graduates from other disciplines is expected to be a main feature of the first national Law Fair, to be held on March 15 and 16. It is being organized by the London University Careers Advisory Service and supported by The Times. Entry is free to all students and graduates.

Miss Anne Marie-Martin, senior careers adviser at the service, said: "Firms are discovering that non-law graduates are often more motivated than their peers from the law faculties."

There was evidence that non-law graduates also had a better pass rate when it came to the solicitors' and Bar final examinations. "As law graduates are snapped up by the financial sector, their places are enthusiastically filled by graduates from all disciplines," she said.

Apart from a large number of law firms, there will be representatives at the Law Fair from the 10 polytechnics who offer the CPE course and from other employers interested in non-law graduates such as licensed conveyancers, legal cashiers, magistrates' courts' service and the European Commission.

Mr Denis Reed, director of legal recruitment at Stephenson Harwood, said yesterday that about 30 per cent of the firm's annual student intake was of non-law graduates.

Law schools' crisis, page 31

## Nine out of ten teachers back education reforms

By Douglas Broom Education Reporter

More than nine out of 10 teachers support the Government's education reforms although they believe more money should be spent on their implementation, according to a survey published yesterday.

An NOP survey, commissioned by the National Union of Teachers, found that only 4 per cent of staff at 98 schools in England and Wales were opposed to the reforms in principle.

Although the survey showed the highest levels of support yet recorded among teachers for the changes it also disclosed that 90 per cent of teachers felt their work was not valued by society.

Two-thirds were dissatisfied with

their lot and a third were ready to leave the profession immediately. More than four-fifths said they normally worked in the holidays and nine out of 10 took work home in the evening.

More than a third regularly spent over 10 hours a week at school on top of their contracted 32½ hours.

A quarter were doing up to 15 extra hours a week and nearly a third were working more than that.

Two-thirds of those teachers who said they were ready to leave the profession said that better salaries would make them think again.

The union's executive will meet today to discuss its response to last week's government announcement of an 8.3 per cent rise for teachers to be paid in two stages starting with 7

per cent from April 1. Left-wingers are expected to call for immediate strike action but the union's leadership is anxious to avoid disruption in schools for fear of losing parental support.

The second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, announced on Friday that it was calling a special conference to consider calling a ballot on industrial action. The NUT leadership may stage a parallel ballot of its members on some kind of limited "demonstrative action".

The NUT general secretary, Mr Douglas McAvoy, said that the big majority supporting government reforms in the poll did not amount to an unequivocal endorsement.

"Teachers may be demoralized and over-worked but they are professionals who are committed to keeping the schools working," he said. "Naturally they want to make the reforms work but the Government must not ignore their very serious concerns about the lack of time and resources for the exercise."

At a union press conference to publicize the poll, Mr Paul Denham, aged 43, a mathematics teacher for 11 years, said he left the profession because of the inadequate preparation being given for important reforms.

He believed many teachers had not left the classroom because they lacked the confidence to sell themselves to other employers but it was only a question of time before the

exodus accelerated. The father of a daughter aged one, he said: "I am terrified about the state that the state education system will be in by the time she starts school."

● The Labour Party yesterday launched its policy document for education in Scotland during the 1990s with the themes of quality, fairness and responsiveness (Kerry Gill writes).

Labour's priorities include the development of a comprehensive pre-five service, expansion of further and higher education, support for teaching of technology in secondary schools, and the introduction of a "Whole School Development Programme" in which parents would help to ensure high standards in every school.

## Flyposting of secret papers embarrasses leaks inquiry

Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Confidential security force documents posted on walls overnight in "loyalist" areas of north and west Belfast brought the Ulster intelligence leaking scandal back to the fore in dramatic fashion yesterday.

As accompanying graffiti made clear, the police later acknowledged, the display was a carefully managed attempt to embarrass the police and particularly Mr John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, who has led a five-month investigation into the affair.

The documents were found in the Highfield and Fort-river estates, in the Ligonell district, and along the Shankill Road. Among slogans accompanying them, one read: "Stevens, we have plenty more of these." A second said: "Targets set up by the RUC for the UFF." The Ulster Freedom Fighters are the military wing of the "loyalist" paramilitary Ulster Defence Association.

Police sources said the documents were photocopies based on at least two original "photo montages" detailing IRA suspects living in Co Armagh, Co Down and Belfast.

The theft of one of the original documents, dated September 1988, was said to have been the subject of a police investigation. Those featured in it had been warned that the dossier was missing.

The police raided UDA offices on the Shankill Road yesterday and later arrested two people, who were being questioned last night.

The appearance of the documents will make it difficult for Mr Stevens to conclude his investigation as planned in the next few weeks. It also underlines the extent of the problem he is up against and the widespread availability of confidential and restricted information to "loyalist" groups.

One of the documents originated from a police station at Banbridge, Co Down, increasing pressure on him to charge

Conservative MPs last night increased pressure on the Government to grant a wide-ranging inquiry into Mr Colin Wallace's allegations that a smear campaign was waged against senior politicians of all parties in the seventies (Philip Webster writes).

They urged that a committee of privy counsellors be set up, along the lines of the Fraser investigation in 1983 of the circumstances leading to the Falklands war, which would have access to the papers of past and present governments.

The move, led by Mr Jonathan Aitken and Mr Richard Shepherd, adds considerably to the Government's difficulties over the affair. Many Conservative MPs last night predicted the Government would eventually have to agree to a larger inquiry in spite of the refusal by the Prime Minister and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

police officers. None has been charged so far, although more than 30 people have been charged since last September.

There is speculation that yesterday's display was a retaliatory move after the arrest by the Stevens team two weeks ago of a leading UDA member who may have agreed to turn "supersgrass".

According to reports at the weekend, Brian Nelson, aged 42, who is in custody charged with the possession of restricted documents, is a senior UDA intelligence officer whose responsibilities included collating intelligence material leaked by members of the security forces.

Reports quoted senior "loyalists" as believing Mr Nelson worked either for British military intelligence or, before his arrest, had elected to inform and had implicated UDA men in a number of 12 murders.

A number of "loyalists" are said to be on the run.

## Lifeboats save storm-hit barque

By Paul Wilkinson

Gale-force winds battered much of Britain yesterday causing two maritime alerts and flooding and disruption as far afield as Scotland and the West Country.

Three lifeboats and a tug took it in turns to stand by a sailing ship in trouble in the Irish Sea off Anglesey, while RAF helicopters operating from Ireland lifted non-essential crew from a British carrier in trouble in the Western Approaches.

Off Anglesey, the two-masted barque Kaskelot, en route from Liverpool to the Canaries, was at the centre of an operation lasting almost 24 hours. She asked for help on Sunday evening after losing an anchor and dragging the other.

Force nine winds and 20ft seas meant her auxiliary engine was unable to maintain her position and she was forced out to sea.

The Moelre lifeboat stood by her all night and was relieved at daybreak by the Beaumaris lifeboat.

A tug from Holyhead got a tow-line aboard, but that snapped and a rope fouled the sailing ship's propeller. It was cleared by the barque's crew and the vessel was finally escorted into Liverpool by the Lytham St Anne's lifeboat as darkness fell last night.

In the other incident, 10 people including the wives of three crewmen, were taken off the iron-ore carrier Tribulus after it began taking water.

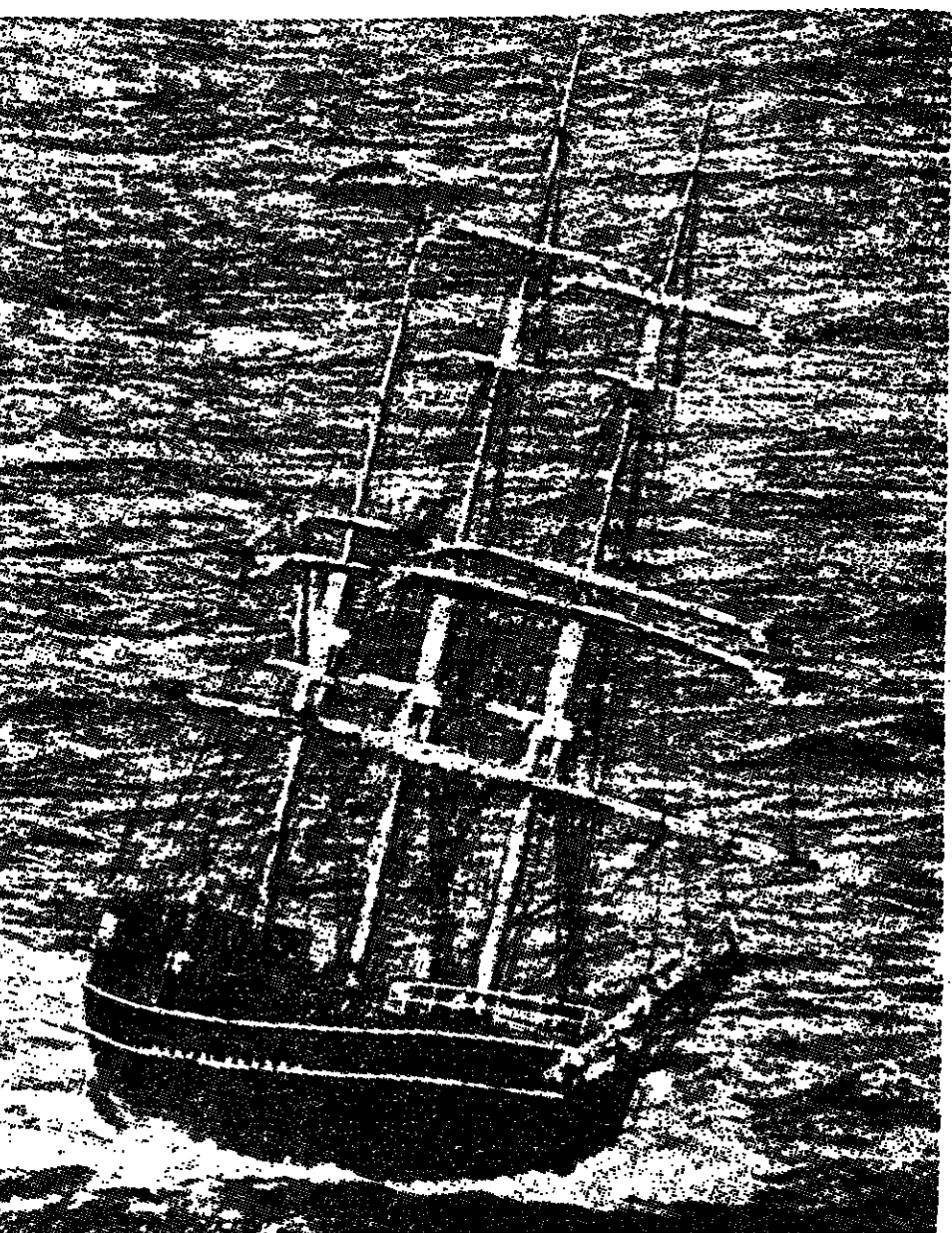
An RAF Nimrod from St Mawgan, Cornwall, flew overhead to co-ordinate the operation carried out in darkness and force five winds. An RAF Sea King had to fly more than 200 miles from Cork, the limit of its endurance.

The ship, with 25 people on board, had sent out a mayday after being holed. It limped towards the Irish coast at 5 knots to rendezvous with the helicopter.

Northern Scotland was one of the areas worst affected, with dozens of roads blocked by floods or landslides.

In Inverness, a road bridge and footbridges were closed. Rail services were disrupted throughout Scotland. Flooding north of Perth closed the line to Inverness, and ScotRail said the West Highland line was shut. Electric services on the Clyde coast were brought to a halt by sea spray being blown on to power lines.

Many minor roads in the Lake District were closed by



The Kaskelot, mines an anchor, making her way to Liverpool after falling foul of the storms.

fallen trees and police banned high-sided vehicles from the A66 across the Pennines.

Police yesterday searched for a man aged 51 and his nephew, aged 13, who disappeared after going out in a van to take a dog for a walk in Allendale, Northumberland, on Sunday night. The van was found in the middle of a ford at Sinderhope after being washed downstream.

In Carlisle, homes were flooded when the Eden overflowed. A couple were rescued by police when flood water swept away their car on the road between Brampton and Longtown, near Carlisle. They were unhurt but their car sank.

Two mountain rescue teams yesterday saved a fell-walker

suffering from hypothermia after he was stranded overnight on the 2,800ft Crinkle Crags above Great Langdale.

Ferry services from Wales to Ireland were cancelled leaving hundreds stranded at Holyhead and Pembroke.

In the west of England, police reopened the A38 Gloucester-Tewkesbury road yesterday after a weekend of floods that also submerged thousands of acres of farmland. Many other roads remained closed.

One family spent nine hours marooned in floodwater from the Severn in Gloucestershire. Their van stalled in floods at Malsome, near Gloucester.

Mr Alistair Richards, his son Andrew, aged 12, and

sister-in-law Jennifer, were already stranded when a 38-tonne articulated truck set up a wave that pushed them into deeper water.

The lorry then overturned in a ditch, leaving the driver trapped as well. The current prevented them wading to safety and all four spent the night trying to attract attention until their flashing headlights were spotted by a woman living more than a mile away.

Thames Water Authority issued its highest flood warning when the Thames and other rivers in Berkshire burst their banks causing chaos over the county. In Reading, the water brought yesterday's rush-hour to a halt.

## Magistrates rebuked for leniency over health and safety

By Sheila Ginn and Frances Gibb



Mr Howard: "Fines of £450 unlikely to deter firms."

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, scolded magistrates yesterday for showing excessive leniency towards employers who breach health and safety laws.

Average fines of £450 were unlikely to deter firms from using dangerous machinery or ignoring the advice of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), he said.

They have driven the HSE to bypass magistrates and send to the Crown Court "cases causing national concern", Mr Howard said.

However, Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, defended JP's in the face of unprecedented criticism which comes after persistent complaints by

MPs to employment ministers in recent months on overly lenient penalties.

Mr Hosking said he did not know why fines were low. However, one reason might be that cases were not prosecuted "vigorously enough".

He said: "I expect the prosecutors do not make them seem serious enough, and if they were more vigorously prosecuted, magistrates would impose higher sums much more than they do."

Mr Hosking said that he did not know why Mr Howard said what he did when his own inspectors had had power to issue enforcement notices to stop a firm from working.

"If that is the case, that is a far greater power than we have and one I would have thought that was every bit as effective as a high fine."

Mr Hosking said that he endorsed Mr Howard's comments that low fines were detrimental to both industry and the public and that the health and safety of individuals should be paramount. However, he had no power to instruct magistrates on what fines to impose.

In a letter to Mr Hosking, the secretary of state cited numerous examples of small fines where workers had been injured, or even died, or where working conditions were so dangerous that an explosion could have occurred.

He said: "Fines of a few hundred pounds, for example, against large building contractors for serious breaches of health and safety legislation are unlikely to have the required deterrent effect." The HSE inspectors issued 11,000 enforcement notices

last year to stop dangerous practices rather than take court action.

"When, therefore, HSE decide to bring a case before the court I would stress that they do so only where they consider the offence to be particularly serious or where other action has already been tried and has had no effect on the offender. They are not, therefore, routine cases but cases of considerable gravity."

He added: "I am sure you appreciate that, under such circumstances, for an employer to be convicted but subsequently to receive a very low fine undermines the gravity of the offence. As a result, a very important issue may continue to be treated lightly and both employees and the public will remain exposed to unnecessary danger, a situation which neither of us would wish to see."

## Personal resolve overtaken by Hillsborough, Wright says

By Peter Davenport

Mr Peter Wright's decision to retire, on May 1, from the South Yorkshire police force he has led for seven years was disclosed in a letter to the chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Authority, Sir Jack Layden.

In it Mr Wright says: "As you know it had always been my intention to leave the force on reaching 60 years of age, but my personal resolve was overtaken by the tragic course of events at Hillsborough."

"It seemed to me the proper course of action would be to await the outcome of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry and to deal, as I thought appropriate, with what emerged from the findings. Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry is now complete and all the necessary police actions from it have been commissioned and largely concluded."

An inquiry on behalf of the

Director of Public Prosecutions is still being carried out by West Midlands police to establish if there should be any criminal proceedings against South Yorkshire police officers, including the operational commander at the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest game, Chief Supt David Duckenfield, who is still suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

Mr Wright said yesterday that his decision to retire on May 1 means he will still be in post to deal with the results of the West Midlands inquiry, which is expected to be completed by April. He said he would be surprised if the inquiry found that the actions of any of his men warranted criminal prosecution.

"The inquiry has been launched because I felt that questions were raised about criminal liability and they could not go unanswered. They had to be pursued in depth and

given the consideration of the Director of Public Prosecutions, I did not believe that there were criminal actions there but it had to be seen to be pursued to the ultimate in the face of what they did was criminal."

"There are very few of my colleagues who could say with conviction that 'It couldn't have

happened here.' They have expressed the view privately to me that it could have happened there and they were within an inch of that sort of situation."

Mr Wright said morale in the force, which sank perhaps to its lowest point in the immediate aftermath of Hillsborough and in the inquiry which followed, had now

been restored. "Fortunately, or unfortunately, policing is day-to-day, minute-by-minute work and there are other problems. You can only devote so much time and thinking to Hillsborough."

"I have been trying to say to my men that Hillsborough is over, so long as we are sure that what we do takes account of the lessons. We have to go on policing South Yorkshire in the manner in which we did before Hillsborough happened."

Mr Wright joined the police in 1954 and has been a senior officer through some of the most troubled and sensitive events of the last decade, including the bitter miners' strike. He was an assistant chief constable on Merseyside during the Toxteth riots of 1981.

But for Hillsborough, he would have retired last year. Although he shares the sense of injustice of his men about the proportion of blame

they have received for the tragedy, Mr Wright has welcomed the Taylor recommendations as vital for the future of football.

After the publication of the first part of Lord Justice Taylor's report, which blamed the failure of police control for the tragedy, Mr Wright offered his resignation, which was rejected by his police authority.

Of the timing of his decision, Mr Wright said yesterday: "I think a new chief, unconnected to Hillsborough, will come in and it is a natural move forward for the force. The best thing for the force is for me to go at the right time and not hang on too long or go too soon. I think I have got it right."

"While I am here Hillsborough will remain. I think I am doing the best for the force in going now at what I see to be the right time for an end and the right time for a beginning."

Waddington's fears, page 40

## NFU calls for green pound devaluation

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers yesterday appealed directly to MPs to urge the Government to press more strongly for a devaluation of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used in the European Community's agricultural trade.

The effect of the green rate is to deny British farmers the competitive advantage in trade and the higher EC support prices that would otherwise flow from a cheaper pound.

They claim it would cost them £700 million in lost revenue over a full year.

On the eve of today's Commons debate on the Brussels farm price proposals for 1990-91, Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), sent letters to 200 MPs asking them to sup-

port the call for "fair competition" in Europe. The problem for Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is that full devaluation of the green pound would cause a 1 per cent increase in retail food prices.

● About 50,000 leaflets are to be distributed to farmers setting out simple and inexpensive changes in farming methods that could help wildlife to flourish, the NFU said.

They are part of a campaign to break with the tradition of intensive farming and to encourage more extensive methods. The NFU is also launching a campaign to encourage farmers to take up the offer of a 10 per cent discount on the purchase of a new tractor or other farm vehicle if they agree to take part in the campaign.



# Judge clears dentist of sex assault after drug-fantasy evidence

By David Sapped

A dentist accused of indecently assaulting seven women patients was cleared yesterday after a judge ruled that the sedative Valium given to them during surgery could have caused them to have sexual fantasies.

The decision comes in the wake of increasing concern that large doses of drugs in the benzodiazepine group, including Valium, can cause such fantasies, leaving both doctors and dentists at risk of being accused of sexual assault by female patients. The *Lancet* urged last summer that such sedatives not be used unless a third person was present.

The dentist, Mr Neil Larah, aged 32, was accused at Manchester Crown Court of fondling the breasts of six of the women in his dentist's chair and sexually assaulting another after following her home.

Mr Justice Hodgson ordered the jury to acquit him after medical evidence that the Valium, given to relax the women, could have caused them to believe in "unreal experiences".

Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence, had made an application at the end of the prosecution case on Friday for the charges to be dismissed after evidence from a leading anaesthetist, Professor Thomas Healey, of Manchester University.

Ordering the jury to return formal not guilty verdicts, the

judge said: "It is agreed each of the women is giving what she believes to be an entirely accurate account. The danger is not that they are lying or exaggerating, but that they are mistaken... that their recollection, honestly believed in, is of an unreal and not a real experience."

Last year, after experiments by Professor John Dundee, emeritus professor of anaesthetics at Queens University, Belfast, it was found that one woman in 200 who received large doses of benzodiazepines experienced sexual fantasies, often leading to charges of

## ● Sedatives leave doctors and dentists at risk of claims ●

sexual assault. Mr Justice Hodgson said: "It is clear there is a mounting body of evidence that patients under sedation from this class of drugs do sometimes experience sexual or erotic fantasies."

Mr Larah, of Whitefield, Bury, Greater Manchester, was said to have injected the women with Valium at his practice in York Street, Heywood, to relax them before an anaesthetic injection. The assaults were allegedly committed over a period of more than two years.

The judge said none of the

alleged attacks was corroborated or confirmed. Some of the complaints were not made until months or years afterwards, making it impossible for the dentist or his assistant to recollect individual patients. "A defendant is then left with no defence but a straight denial," he said.

Mr Larah, married with two children, said as he left court on the sixth day of the trial: "It is a great relief. I am glad it is all over." He was awarded costs out of central funds.

Professor Dundee said afterwards that lucid fantasies were rare. He said he had recorded 43 since the first was recorded in the UK in 1981.

"In such cases, the women say there has been some kind of sexual trespass. It is quite clear that, under the circumstances, the assault could not have happened. But the patients are quite convinced and they give a very good step by step description of what's happened," he said.

"The drug is given by dentists if an unpleasant treatment is to be undertaken and is used by dentists with a local anaesthetic to make the patient drowsy."

Guidelines published by the General Dental Council for the use of sedatives such as Valium state that the dentist may administer the drug but should have another person present who is capable of monitoring the patient.

# Wedding bells ring for Bruno

JAMES GRAY



The boxer Frank Bruno leaving St Mary's Catholic Church at Hornchurch, Essex, yesterday with his bride Miss Laura Mooney. Their "quiet, private wedding" with guests including the BBC boxing commentator Harry Carpenter who emerged, right, from the church with the boxer's mother Lynette, ended in commotion as hundreds of well-wishers mobbed the couple.

Spectators had gathered as early as 6.30am, seven hours before the ceremony. Police, who provided an escort for the couple, said they understood that between 2,000 and 3,000 people were at the church or lining the route.

As he fought his way through the throng, Bruno said he felt very happy and did not expect his new status to affect his boxing. "I don't know why it took me so long," Bruno's brother Michael was best man and the newly weds' children - Nicola, aged seven, and Rachel, aged three - were bridesmaids.



# Wife blames 999 dispute for her husband's death

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

A woman blamed the ambulance dispute for her husband's death yesterday and demanded an inquiry into why he was not admitted to hospital and why an ambulance took so long.

Mrs Sarah Best said that her husband Billy, aged 39, died while on his way back to hospital for the second time from their home in Chorlton, Greater Manchester. She said it took 45 minutes before an ambulance arrived in spite of six calls.

Mr Best had originally driven himself to Withington Hospital, Manchester, after suffering severe chest pains. The North West Regional

Health Authority said: "We believe the ambulance took 20 minutes to arrive but there was a delay and it is really down to the dispute."

The Withington Hospital said a senior house officer diagnosed Mr Best as having indigestion. A heart trace showed no abnormality and he was sent home with medicine for indigestion.

In another development, the authority is to seek a High Court injunction today against the Manchester crews to prevent them using ambulances for their planned alternative service.

● A boy aged seven from Derby was "stable" yesterday

after a life-saving heart transplant. A 150-mile dash by ambulance to the Harfield Hospital, Middlesex, ended Levi Donaldson's three-year wait for a suitable donor.

● Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, is to meet the British Medical Association tomorrow to discuss progress on reducing junior doctors' hours of work.

It coincides with the publication of an interim report of an independent study commissioned in 1985 by the Department of Health which finds junior doctors are on duty for an average 90 hours a week and working for an average of 58 of those hours.

# Wrens to serve on warships

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Women are to be allowed to serve on Royal Navy warships for the first time, it was announced last night.

The announcement by Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, came after an agreement by the Admiralty Board to allow Wrens to serve alongside male colleagues at sea.

Full details of their new role have yet to be disclosed. However, it is understood that the Wrens will be allowed to serve on the Navy's three aircraft carriers, HMS Ark Royal, HMS Illustrious and HMS Invincible, and other front-line ships.

Confirmation that the Navy is to break with its all-male sea-going tradition came at the end of the Commons debate on the Navy last night.

Ministers are known to have overridden initial doubts among Navy chiefs. It is understood the original idea had been to allow Wrens to serve on Navy support ships and fishery protection vessels.

One of the main reasons for sending women to sea is a chronic manpower crisis caused by a shortage of recruits aged 16 to 24.

# Three Graces statue Patten to be taken to court

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is to be taken to court over his decision to take no action about the removal of the Canova statue "Three Graces" from Woburn Abbey.

A £7.6 million appeal has been launched to prevent the statue being exported.

SAVE Britain's Heritage, which has spearheaded the campaign to keep the statue in Britain, has been granted leave by the High Court to bring proceedings for a judicial review of Mr Patten's decision.

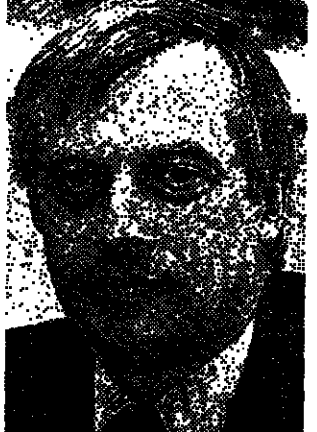
Mr Marcus Binney, president of SAVE, said yesterday: "In deciding not to take enforcement action, Mr Patten went against the advice of his own statutory advisers, English Heritage, who told him that the statue was an integral part of a listed building. We hope that he will be forced to reconsider that decision."

Woburn Abbey's Temple of the Graces was specially designed by Sir Jeffrey Wyatville to house the statue, which was removed from Woburn in 1984 to be shown in the Treasury Houses of Britain exhibition in Washington. It was never returned but placed

in store in London instead. The Victoria and Albert Museum launched an appeal last month to raise £7.6 million to buy the statue, and has until March 12 before the export deferment granted by the Minister for the Arts expires and it goes to the Getty Museum in the United States.

SAVE now has a week to bring judicial review proceedings, and Mr Binney said he hoped the review could be expedited in view of the urgency.

SAVE's solicitor, Mr David



Mr Patten: Challenged by heritage group.

Cooper, said: "This is a matter of principle. If this decision is allowed to stand as it is, it will be a green light for every listed statue or statue which is part of a listed structure, whether indoors or out of doors, to do a vanishing trick."

Mr Patten's decision, announced in the House of Commons in December by Mr David Trippier, heritage minister, was made on the basis of a number of factors. They included the facts that the statue had been moved from the temple on a number of occasions and that the local planning authority had decided against taking listed building enforcement action.

The Department of the Environment said yesterday that ministers had had no formal notification of the judicial review proceedings, but that they would be expected to defend their decision if it were to go before the courts.

Last summer Mr Patten's predecessor, Mr Nicholas Ridley, had a decision not to list the Rose theatre site as one of archaeological importance reviewed by the High Court at the behest of the Rose Theatre Trust. Mr Patten's decision was approved by the court.

# Men's drinking may retard unborn sons

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Men who drink heavily may father less intelligent sons, a team of scientists claims.

The scientists say researches indicate that high levels of alcohol may cause mutations in sperm so that men who drink excessively may be passing on mental and hormonal defects to their male offspring. The findings come from a team at Washington University School of Medicine in the United States.

Professor Forester Cockburn, Professor of Child Health at Glasgow University and an expert on links between drinking in pregnant mothers and foetal harm, described the findings as extremely interesting and "work that cannot be ignored".

Because human studies are difficult, with family life, environmental and other factors masking and confusing findings, the Washington team focused on animal

studies to see if - as has already been well documented in females - alcohol misuse among fathers may damage a developing child.

Over a period of 39 days young male rats were fed an alcohol-laced diet to keep them drunk. Then, for two weeks, the rats were weaned off the diet before being allowed to mate with female rats that had been fed normal food.

Male offspring appeared to develop and behave identically to pups sired by rats that had escaped the alcohol regime. Eyes opened at the same time, weight gains were comparable and they did most physical and perceptual tasks with the same level of skill.

However, when the two groups were compared on their abilities to get round a maze, with a reward of food at the end of it, crucial differences emerged. Rats born from alcohol-fed fathers took 50 per cent more time to solve the problem.

Male offspring were chosen because

earlier studies indicated they can suffer hormonal imbalances from which female offspring appear immune.

Nevertheless the experts, led by Dr Theodore Cicero and Dr David Wozniak, now want to find out if the logical and reasoning ability of female rats might be also harmed by hard-drinking fathers.

Dr Cicero, whose findings are reported in *Scientific American*, said the mechanism of sperm mutation brought about by alcohol remained a mystery. But he said the animal studies mirrored findings concerning the sons of human alcoholics who are more likely to perform less well at school.

Professor Cockburn commented: "You would need to have a father conceiving a child brought up in a non-alcoholic environment, perhaps, taking them straight to foster parents after birth. So it is very difficult to conceive of a child study in man where you could prove or disprove this work."

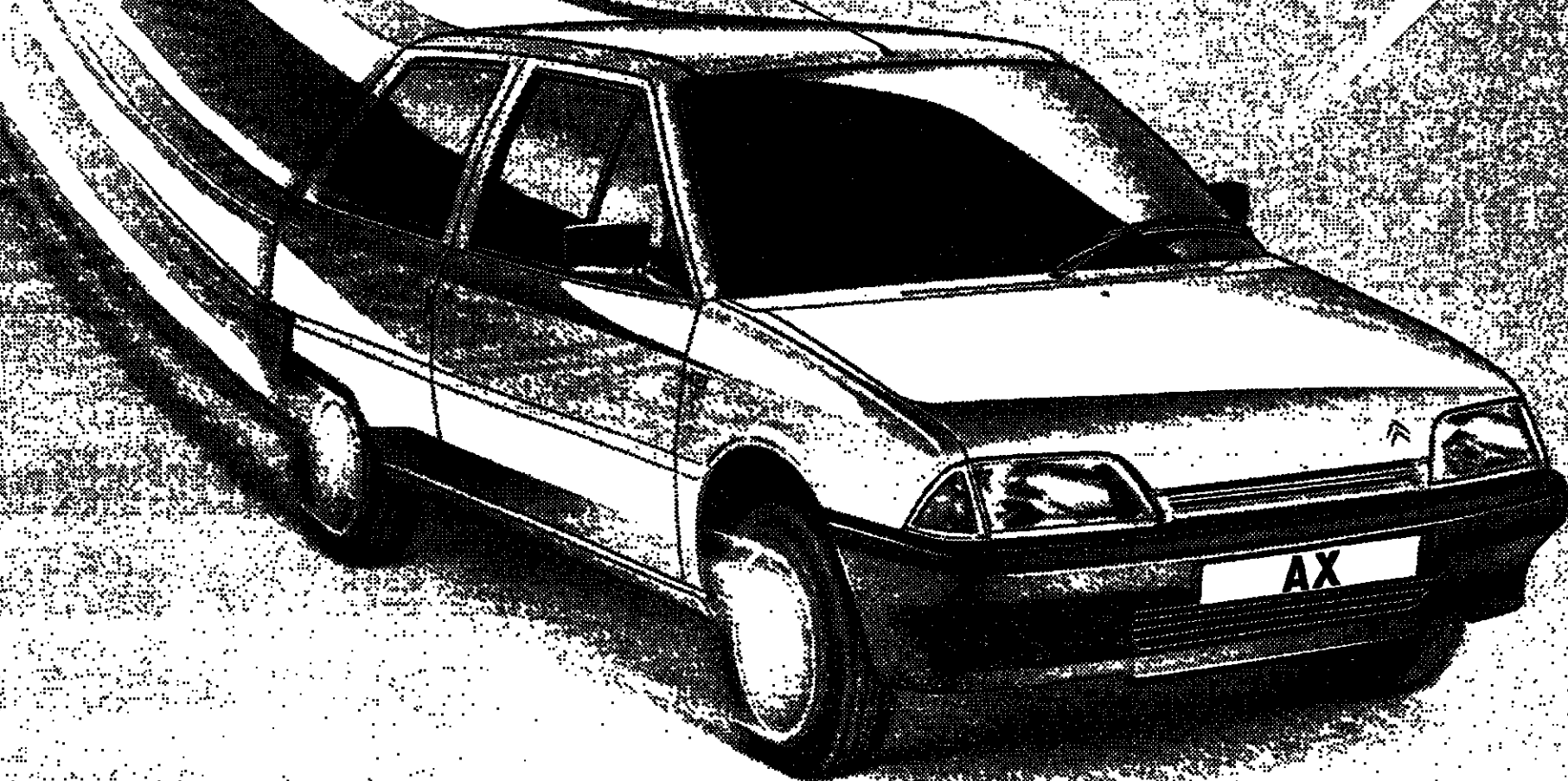
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## Parkinson outlines policy on future transport investment

# Rail fares set for more rises on provincial routes

By Michael Dynes  
Transport Correspondent

Passengers using British Rail's provincial services will pay a significantly higher proportion of the real cost of rail fares over the next five years, Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

Provincial passengers, who now pay about 33 per cent of the cost of their journeys, can expect their contribution to rise to about 44 per cent by 1995, when that sector's annual subsidy will have fallen by £55 million, he said.

Provincial is the BR sector responsible

for all non-InterCity commuter and passenger services outside Network SouthEast.

However, Mr Parkinson said a combination of improved efficiency and reduced maintenance costs would lead to a reduction in the overall cost of providing provincial services, thereby ensuring that real fare increases will be no higher than 2 to 3 per cent a year.

The sector's fare increases follow BR's decision in 1989 to eliminate in three annual stages the disparity between the cost of long-distance season tickets and discounted off-peak fares, the second

stage of which took effect on Sunday. But Mr Parkinson dismissed allegations by Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, that the anticipated slowdown in economic growth would force BR to choose between additional fare increases or reduce its investment programme by £500 million.

He said funds earmarked for the investment programme "are not set in concrete", and could be expected to fluctuate depending on economic circumstances. He is negotiating with BR over next year's external financing limit, the amount BR is allowed to

borrow, to compensate for the £70 million lost in last summer's one-day stoppages.

Mr Parkinson said the three-year public transport investment programme, which includes £3.7 billion for British Rail financed entirely from passenger receipts, £2.2 billion for London Regional Transport, and £500 million for the extension of London Underground's Jubilee Line, "was the highest for 25 years". The Government could not proceed simultaneously with both of the proposed new London Underground lines - Paddington-Liverpool Street and

Chelsea-Hackney - without "clogging up London", although one of the proposals would be submitted to Parliament in November, he said.

Dismissing claims that the Government was hostile to spending on public transport, Mr Parkinson emphasized that the £5.7 billion being spent on the road network was dwarfed only by the £6.2 billion being spent on modernizing rail and Underground services.

Although insisting the Government had no intention of "wrecking the environment", Mr Parkinson declined to state whether he was prepared to

accept "environmental limits" on the number of carbon-dioxide emitting vehicles on British roads.

Mr Parkinson acknowledged that his department could not build sufficient roads to carry the 140 per cent increase in vehicles expected by 2025, but was adamant that some expansion in the road network would be necessary to reduce congestion and pollution.

He hinted that his department was working on an initiative to encourage car owners to place a higher premium on energy efficiency. This would be unveiled later in the year.

## Commuters take strain as cost of travel bites

By Craig Seton and Ruth Gledhill

Janice Smith, aged 42, a professional assistant with the National Union of Teachers, is looking for a new job. The 15 per cent increase for long-distance rail commuters means she can no longer afford to travel to work in London each day from Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Miss Smith is one of the estimated 240 passengers from Grantham who commute each day the 107 miles to London on the InterCity service, taking just over an hour at peak times. But the cost of her fare now represents an unacceptable 36 per cent of her net salary.

The increase came into effect yesterday and took the cost of an annual second-class season ticket from Grantham to King's Cross from £2,756 to £3,168, a rise of £412. First-class season ticket holders now have to pay £4,592 a year.

Long-distance commuters such as Miss Smith represent

about 4 per cent of all season ticket holders using British Rail. According to Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, they are privileged passengers who pay only about 40 per cent of the standard fare and could face further large increases.

Opponents, notably the Grantham Commuters' Association, set up four years ago to represent local, long-distance passengers, claim the comparison is unfair because only a minority of other passengers pay the full standard rate. They believe that fare increases in recent years are a forerunner to privatization of the railways.

Even before the latest rise, Miss Smith could not afford to buy an annual season ticket. During the two years she has been commuting she has bought her ticket on a monthly basis and from yesterday that went up to £304. She travelled to London yes-

terday morning in one of the crowded second-class compartments of the 7.51.

"We had a 21 per cent increase in our fares last year and now it is another 15 per cent. Professionally I would like to carry on doing what I have been doing, but I am now looking for another job."

She said the teachers' union had been helping her with her fares in lieu of relocation expenses, but that arrangement would end in a couple of months. She does not want to live in London.

Miss Smith conceded that the cost of a monthly second-class season ticket, used on 20 working days, represented a daily return fare of about £15, compared with £38 for a standard second-class return to London and £58 for a first-class return.

But she believes British Rail is driving long-distance commuters away. "We are the backbone of the business. Without us the trains would be virtually empty. In any other business, you get a cheaper rate if you buy in bulk. Well, season ticket holders do buy in bulk."

The fare increase, however, was not so critical to some other passengers as it was to Miss Smith. Mr Duncan Young, aged 32, a chartered surveyor, bought his first-class season ticket - incorporating London Underground - just before the increase came into effect. It saved him £600.

Mr Young said he preferred to commute because, in Lincolnshire he and his family could afford to live in a five-bedroomed farmhouse. "I accept the latest increase, although double the rate of inflation is a bit over the top. I



Commuters on a rush-hour train travelling from the London suburb of Surbiton to Waterloo station yesterday after the introduction of increased rail fares

think there will come a point when we will have to think about the benefits of living up here, but when that will happen I do not know."

As the 7.51 sped south from Grantham, the Prime Minister's home town, Mr John Scott, aged 53, a computer consultant and founder member of the Grantham Commuters' Association, canvassed support for the campaign against large fare rises.

Mr Scott believes there should be tax relief on the cost of travel to work. "It would be a vote-winner in the South-east," he said.

He hesitated when asked whether long-distance commuters should, in effect, be subsidized, and said: "Subsidy is an emotive word. But, nearly all successful transport organizations like the airlines make special arrangements for commercially important trav-

ellers, the frequent users, and that should apply to long-distance commuters."

However, on his tour of the train, Mr Scott encountered Mr Geoff Knowles, aged 56, a claims adjuster, who is a second-class commuter. The cost of his annual season ticket has gone up by £412. Mr Knowles said he did not

and not expect to pay for it to go there to work. "Passengers on the crowded commuter trains from the London suburb of Surbiton were silent yesterday morning, some suffering the usual Monday morning blues, others working out how to squeeze large rail fare increases from over-stretched budgets."

One professional, who last year would have described herself as a "yuppie", said she had been forced to convert the sitting room in her flat into a bedroom and let it out to a friend to cope with increased mortgage repayments. Her 9 per cent fare increase will leave her "totally broke".

Others were furious that British Rail dared to raise fares on trains that were "consistently late, overcrowded and dirty".

Mr Geoff Kidd, a personnel director, drove from Leatherhead, Surrey, to catch a train

from Surbiton to Waterloo. He was grateful that his company paid for his season ticket, which will cost more than £940.

"I think the service is poor, with repeated cancellations, delays, dirty trains. This just adds to the general hardship of working in central London. Insufficient state investment

form: Due to a lack of coaches, the next train to Waterloo was cancelled."

Mr Frank Smith, of Surbiton, operations controller for a securities house, bought an annual season ticket in November. "The service is pretty frequent. Apart from having to stand quite often, I get there and back without too much trouble," he said.

Mr David Golding, a City accountant forced to stand on a train from Surbiton to Waterloo, bought an annual season ticket in December. "The rise was inevitable. It is fair enough to sustain price rises at the rate of inflation."

He schedules his day to avoid the rush hour. "I have no choice but to travel by train. I have tried driving and it took two-and-a-half hours. My mortgage is crushing me. I can stand it for a few years. If it gets too much I will just disappear off somewhere."

Without us the trains would be virtually empty

in the railways will lead to still higher fares, forcing people back on to the roads."

Mr Tom Kenne, a trainee manager of Guildford, will pay an extra £80 for his £708 annual travel card. "No-one likes paying extra money for services which are not adequate," he said.

As he spoke, an announcement echoed over the plat-

form: Due to a lack of coaches, the next train to Waterloo was cancelled."



Mr Geoff Kidd: Irrked by delays and dirty trains.



Mr John Scott: Canvassing passengers from Grantham.

## Nursing home boss is jailed

A nursing home owner was jailed yesterday for giving drugs as she pleased to those in her care, to ensure she "had a quiet life".

Nottingham Crown Court was told that Jane Toyne, aged 44, who owned the Melita House Care Home in Scunthorpe, Humberside, had stockpiled prescription drugs to use as she chose.

Toyne, of Yaddethorpe, Humberside, admitted administering prescription-only medicines, supplying and intending to supply controlled drugs, and actual bodily harm against a patient.

## Libel victory

Miss Koo Stark the actress and photographer won substantial libel damages yesterday over a *Daily Mail* article relating to her divorce. She has now received over £500,000 from libel cases.

## Train kills boy

A boy aged two died yesterday when he was hit by a Liverpool to Scarborough train near the Neville Hill maintenance depot in Leeds.

## It's a birdie

Golfers at Whitland Bay, Cornwall, are being plagued by a raven who has stolen more than 200 golf balls.

## Cricket dispute

# Big hitters play another day

By John Young

Cricket lovers who feel that the noble game is constantly under threat can comfort themselves this morning that the stalwarts of the Kirkella Club, on the rural outskirts of Hull, will be donning their flannels and doing battle in the Yorkshire League for the foreseeable future.

In what may prove to be a significant verdict, Mr Steven Williamson, QC, a county court recorder, decreed yesterday that the players and their opponents should be allowed to continue to hit sixes into the garden of their neighbour, Mr Malcolm Hawkins.

However, he also stipulated that they must not enter Mr Hawkins's garden without his consent and that they must ask him if they can have their ball back. In return, he must return the offending object when asked.

Should the ball hit the roof of Mr Hawkins's bungalow and damage a tile, as has allegedly happened several times, the club or the player responsible will have to stump up for any repairs costing less than £100. Larger claims will be settled through an insurance policy.

Mr Williamson's judgement, delivered after a five-minute hearing, brought to an

end a legal dispute which began last summer when Mr Hawkins obtained an injunction against the club, which had been playing since September 10, the day after the season ended.

"No one wants to see a cricket club bite the dust," Mr Williamson said. "I hope all will go well for both parties in the coming season."

Mr Frederick Lockyer, the club secretary, said yesterday: "We really feel a lot happier. We were facing an injunction to stop us playing cricket more or less forthwith."

"Now Mr Hawkins has come forward with some proposals which we have been able to accept. The court's verdict means that we will be able to go on playing."

The club was founded in the 1930s but did not move to its present premises until 1961. At that time the land was occupied by a market garden, and trees had to be felled and greenhouses demolished to create a sporting arena.

The club has about 45 members and regularly puts out a first and second eleven every Saturday and Sunday between April and September. "It is fairly high-class cricket," Mr Lockyer said.

The dispute began in 1985 when Mr Hawkins moved into one of two bungalows built

near the edge of the ground, replacing farm cottages.

"It is a small ground, and we can't deny that we have caused Mr Hawkins some problems," Mr Lockyer said. "We have done our best to stop balls going over into his property, which included building a wire fence 50 metres long and 20 feet high which cost us some £2,000."

"We have taken every step we could, but the ball still sometimes goes over the top into Mr Hawkins's garden."

"In the old days it didn't seem to matter very much. The people who lived in the cottages used to come out into their gardens to watch us play, and we could knock the ball over with impunity."

Sadly, the dispute is not yet fully resolved. Although the club can continue to use its present ground, it is also under a direction from Mr Williamson to look for another "with all speed".

Mr Lockyer said yesterday that it hoped to sell the ground and buy land elsewhere.

However, Mr Norman Kingdom, the club chairman, said: "We have been unable to get planning permission for another ground in the area."

"We also face a £2,000 legal bill, and we will have to stage more fund-raising events."

## Additional Price Option from British Gas for its Contract Gas Customers.

The second Addendum to Schedule FI 2 set out below offers a form of pricing arrangement supplementary to those published in the earlier Tables 1 to 5.

Although this advertisement serves as a formal notification of the second Addendum, British Gas will also use its best endeavours to send a printed copy to those customers most likely to be affected. Further, any customer who wishes to receive a printed copy of the Addendum will be sent such a copy upon application to the Registered or Regional Head Offices of British Gas.

### British Gas plc Contract Gas Pricing Schedule Firm and Interruptible Gas Second Addendum to Schedule FI 2

Notwithstanding the Scheduled Reference Prices set out in this Schedule FI 2 or in Schedule CSP 1 the prices for the supply of gas to any customer shall not exceed those set out and calculated in accordance with Table 7 hereunder.

Table 7:

Period	Price per therm (p)
1. 1 May 89 to 31 July 89	A + 25% of B
2. 1 August 89 to 31 October 89	A + 50% of B
3. 1 November 89 to 31 January 90	A + 58% of B
4. 1 February 90 to 30 April 90	A + 67% of B
5. 1 May 90 to 31 July 90	A + 75% of B
6. 1 August 90 to 31 October 90	A + 84% of B
7. 1 November 90 to 31 January 91	A + 91% of B
8. 1 February 91 to 30 April 91	A + 100% of B

A is the price paid by the customer under a Special Agreement for the supply of gas immediately prior to the meter reading date on or nearest to 31st March 1989.

B is the price difference between A and the price which would have been payable for a like type of supply under Schedule CSP 1 on 1st May 1989 provided that B was equal to or greater than 33% of A at 1st May 1989.

Customers wishing to take advantage of the above arrangements should elect to terminate their existing Special Agreement for the supply of gas no later than 1st March 1990 and should immediately enter into a contract for a like type of supply under this second Addendum to Schedule FI 2 with effect from that termination.

Customers who elect to change shall pay to or be repaid by British Gas any difference between the price actually paid for gas consumed from 1st May 1989 to the effective date of the new contract and the price which would have been payable under the foregoing formulae in respect of the same period.

6 February 1990.

British Gas

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## Rummage turns up Elizabethan windfall

SALE ROOM

John Shaw

A rummage through old belongings has brought an unexpected windfall of between £50,000 and £70,000 to a family in the north of England.

The search uncovered a small gilt pocket compendium with a scientific instrument used for navigation and to calculate time in the Elizabethan period. It was signed Humphrey Cole and dated 1579.

At Christie's, South Kensington, Mr Jeremy Collins, head of the firm's scientific instruments department, examined the item and said: "It was a very exciting find indeed. He was one of the greatest scientific instrument makers of the Elizabethan age."

Cole (c1530-1591) was also an expert on mining, metallurgy and metal work. His work rarely appears at auction and only about 25 of his instruments survive in museum collections, Mr Collins said.

The compass needle and glass are replacements and some of the exterior gilding has gone, but you would expect that. The interior gilding is extraordinary, it is a lovely little thing."

The compendium is one of the star lots in the firm's sale

of fine scientific instruments on March 29.

Japanese works of art, prints, paintings and screens made \$2,674,265 (£1,590,404) in New York with records for lacquer at \$187,000, a 19th-century Shodansu, a large plaque in cloisonné enamel at \$121,000, with a Namikawa Sosenke mark from the Meiji period, acquired by a London buyer, and a *suzuribako*, or writing box, \$104,000.

A Worcester Flight sauce tureen, cover and stand, part of a service commissioned by the Duke of Clarence, later William IV, will be sold for an estimated £2,000 to £2,500 by Lawrence Fine Art of Crewkerne, Somerset, on February 22. It was painted in mono-

chrome by John Pennington with a different scene of "Hope and Anchor" on each piece.

The service was made shortly after the duke was supposed to have married Caroline Von Linsingen following two years of what the *Dictionary of National Biography* called "sentimental love-making".

It was about that time that the duke formed a close and long-lasting relationship with Mrs Jordan, an actress who often took the head of the table at his dinner parties - some of the best of the period - where this tureen is believed to have been used.

It has been sent for sale from London.



# Unforeseen twin is awarded £480,000 over medical error

A boy severely handicapped because medical staff induced his birth after failing to discover his mother was expecting twins was awarded £480,000 in the High Court yesterday.

Thomas Fowler, now aged seven, who suffered brain damage in the form of cerebral palsy, was delivered by emergency Caesarean 66 minutes after his healthy twin, Jonathan, in July 1982.

The court was told that Thomas, of Cesson Close, Chipping Sodbury, Avon, now attended a special school and would never be gainfully employed. In contrast, his twin brother was the most able pupil at his school.

The agreed award was against Huddersfield Health Authority, which admitted liability. Thomas's mother, Mrs Marilyn Fowler, now aged 37, was awarded £5,000 agreed damages for her own suffering over the birth.

Their counsel, Mr John Cherry, QC, told Mr Justice Drake that Mrs Fowler was taken to the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, in July 1982 after her doctor

became concerned at her size. She was told her "one" large baby was overdue and should be induced.

Mr Cherry said that after Jonathan was delivered normally at the Princess Royal hospital, it was discovered that Mrs Fowler was expecting twins.

Several failed attempts were made to deliver Thomas and, 45 minutes after Jonathan's birth, Mrs Fowler, then aged 29, was taken to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary for an emergency Caesarean section.

Thomas was born "black and blue" and with a broken left arm because of the attempts to deliver him normally at the Princess Royal. His heart stopped beating in the last few minutes of the Caesarian operation.

Mr Cherry said it was an "unusual case" because the brothers were born in two different hospitals. If Thomas had been born two minutes later, they would have been born on separate days, making the twin birth "unique".

Thomas suffered spastic quadriplegia and impaired intelligence and would never live an independent life. His

sister Emma, aged 11, was bright and musically gifted, but the most compelling comparison, Mr Cherry said, was with his brother Jonathan, who was the "most able" boy in his class. He had exhausted reading material for those aged up to 12.

Thomas would have been a high earner had it not been for the tragedy. "His physical and mental handicap is permanent and he will never be able to lead an independent existence."

He could not walk without help and could only stand with the help of special boots. He was dressed, washed and cared for by his mother. He could feed himself in a messy way and had to use a wheelchair. He attended a school for the handicapped.

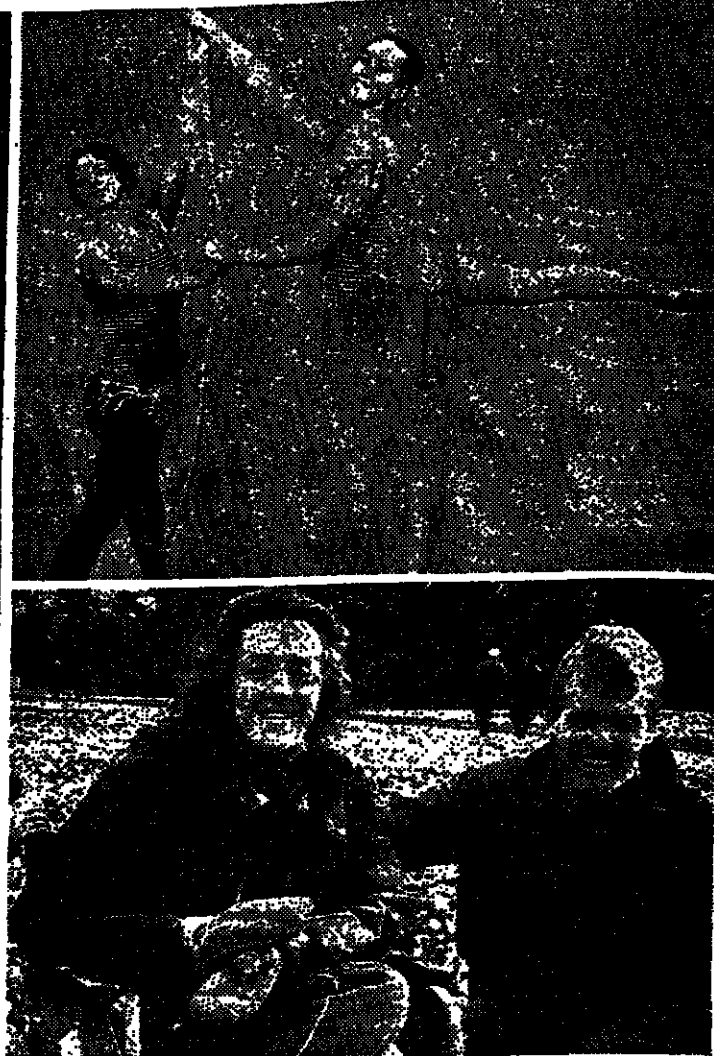
Mr Cherry added that Thomas's parents had separated.

Mr Justice Drake said he had "no hesitation" in approving the award. He was only concerned with the financial benefit to Thomas. He appreciated how much love and care had to be devoted if a child such as Thomas was to be brought up properly.

# Prayers place dancer back on her feet



Julie Sheldon with her daughters, Georgie and Mimi, yesterday; top right, on stage as a dancer; and incapacitated in her wheelchair six months ago.



By Ruth Gledhill

A former Royal Ballet dancer has recovered after nearly dying from the neurological movement disorder dystonia.

The family of Julie Sheldon believed she was about to die as she lay in hospital last summer after more than two years of agony in a wheelchair, her back arched by muscular contractions which had spread through her body, and her mind numbed by pain killers.

She was unable to breathe unaided and was fed by a tube in her throat because her neck muscles were in spasm and she could not swallow. Her brother returned from the United States and family members paid what they believed were last visits to her bedside.

Mrs Sheldon, who danced before the Queen Mother at a Covent Garden gala performance of *Don Quixote* starring Rudolf Nureyev, was slipping in and out of consciousness when a friend from the London Healing Mission visited her with an Australian priest.

"I can remember him being there but I cannot remember much about it," she said. She was told later that Canon Jim Glenon, of Sydney, prayed over her with her friend for about 30 minutes.

"About half an hour after he went I sat up in the bed on my own, which I had not been able to do for months. The next day I got out of bed, with crutches for support because I was so weak. That was in June. By August, I was off crutches. By September, I was off drugs. The doctors were delighted and amazed."

Mrs Sheldon said the illness was extremely painful. "My body was completely distorted. My head was across my shoulder, my leg across my body and my arms were bent up so I could not use them. I was totally devastated."

She has now returned home to her husband, Tom, and daughters, Mimi, aged seven, and Georgie, aged four, at Gravesend, Kent, and is an active member of the Dystonia Society. The illness which is believed to affect as many people as multiple sclerosis.

The courage of a pensioner who was shot when he took on two armed robbers with a plank was praised by a coroner yesterday. But he warned against the rashness of tackling determined criminals.

Dr Douglas Chambers, the St Pancras coroner, was speaking at the inquest on Mr Donald Kell, a retired caretaker, who was shot last July outside Lloyds Bank at Swiss Cottage, north-west London.

Dr Chambers said: "It has been very sad to have to conduct such an inquest of a man who has shown such exemplary civic duty. That duty has to be tempered, and quite honestly discretion is the better part of valour."

"I would not like to be doing another inquest of a man of similar bravery who has been shot by men who are professional enough to kill to get what they want."

Mr Kell, aged 66, of Harold House, Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage, has been recommended for a bravery award by police. Dressed only in shorts and a tee-shirt, he was on his way to put up shelves for a neighbour's daughter when he saw the robbers holding up a security van outside the bank.

Det Chief Insp Robert Melrose, of the Flying Squad, said the robbers had already fired a warning shot. "It was at this stage that Mr Kell emerged from the crowd, who had shrunk back in horror."

"Mr Kell advanced, quite deliberately towards one of the armed men and attacked him with a plank of wood. At the urging of one of the robbers, the robber who was being attacked shot Mr Kell."

The single shot pierced his heart and lung, fatally wounding him. The bandits then fled with about £500, leaving Mr Kell dying in the road.

Mr Melrose said Mr Kell had continued to try to help the guards despite the guns pointed at him.

"It may be that, despite advice, people act according to their instincts at the time. Up against this kind of professional armed robber it is most advisable to attempt to leave."

A pathologist, Dr Freddie Patel, said the shot from the robber was designed to kill.

Recording a verdict of unlawful killing, the coroner said: "Everybody will feel the sadder for his going. He was an exceptional kind of man for doing this and to do it in such a tragic manner."

No one has yet been charged in connection with the shooting.

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has joined calls for the Government to pay greater compensation to farmers with cattle infected by "mad cow" disease.

Farmers are paid only half the market value of the animals which have to be destroyed, unless a post-mortem examination reveals that the diagnosis was wrong.

Since the slaughter policy was introduced in August 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has destroyed more than 9,500 cattle, nearly all of them cows, suspected of suffering from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

In a letter to Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, the institution says that full compensation should be paid to farmers, and fears that infected animals

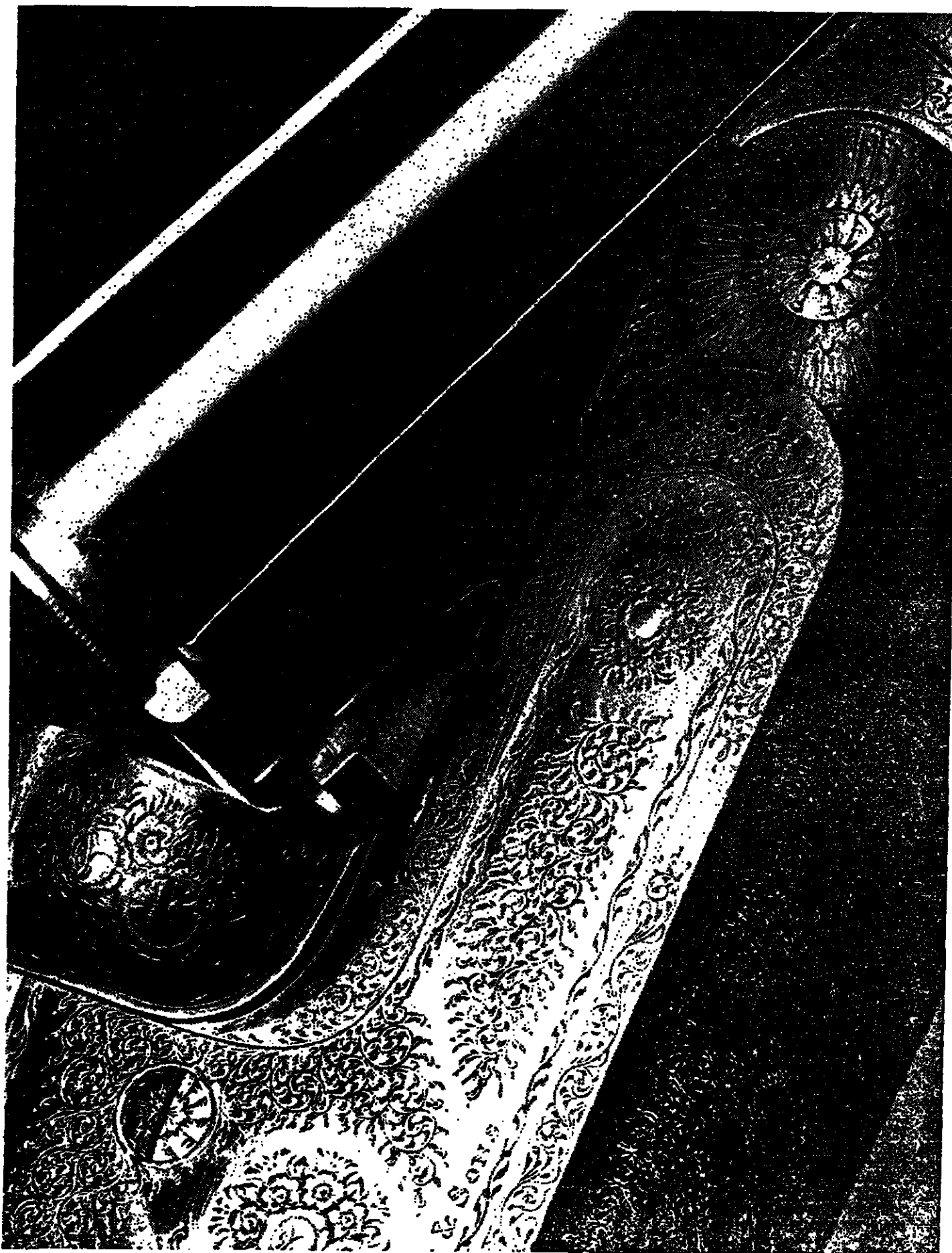
may be being sold unknowingly through livestock markets operated by chartered surveyors.

Mr Richard Law, president of the institution's rural practice division, said: "I am worried that lack of proper compensation could tempt farmers to send diseased animals to market just as soon as the slightest suspicion of the infection appears. It is not possible for livestock markets to test each animal presented for sale."

The Government insists that full compensation is not justified and that it has taken all the measures necessary to prevent diseased meat reaching the consumer.

Meanwhile, a survey of supermarkets by the Meat and Livestock Commission says publicity about the disease has not hit beef sales.

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# Cairo plea to save threatened peace process

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Many right-wing Israeli politicians believe that the Middle East peace process died along with the victims of the terrorist attack on an Israeli tourist bus near Ismailiya in Egypt on Sunday, just when it appeared poised to move forward.

As Israel's dead and wounded were flown back to Tel Aviv from Cairo, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said the "terrible murders" proved that the commitment by the Palestine Liberation Organization to renounce violence was a lie because "elements" within Islamic Jihad, one of the extremist groups which claimed to have carried out the

Nicola (Reuters) — Iran yesterday praised the attack on the tourist bus as a heroic act which could help Muslim fundamentalist groups in Palestine. Tashir said that the operation was significant for its timing, at the height of the US diplomatic initiative aimed at convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

attack, were linked to "elements" in Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction.

But other senior officials said the attackers were Arab extremists who were opposed to the moderate approach of the PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, towards Israel and who were counting on a right-wing backlash in Israel. Officials said the best way to frustrate the terrorists' aim was to step up efforts to achieve a Palestinian settlement involving Israel, Egypt and the United States.

President Mubarak of Egypt yesterday telephoned Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, to express his shock over the attack, adding that he hoped the peace process would not be "derailed". Mr Shamir replied that there could be no peace unless Israel and Egypt jointly rooted out terrorism, and he vowed that Israel would continue to fight for "peace and security".

In a statement to the Knesset, Mr Shamir declared

Israel was in mourning over "this horrible slaughter", adding: "Our daily problems are dwarfed by this pain."

He said: "We will continue on our way, steadfast in our belief, doing all we can for our security and for the advancement of peace — real peace, peace with security, peace without murder and terror."

In Cairo, Dr Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, also said the peace process must not be disrupted.

President Chaim Herzog of Israel said the marching and grenade attack on the bus, which led to 10 Israeli deaths — one person died on the plane to Tel Aviv — and 17 injured, was aimed at disrupting the peace process. In response, Israelis should "close ranks", he said.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Finance Minister and Labour leader, said Israel could not allow terrorists "to dictate whether or not there will be peace".

The attack was condemned by Mr Faisal Husseini, the leading Palestinian figure in the occupied territories.

The PLO representative in Cairo, Mr Saad Karar, said the attackers, who used a car to block the bus before opening fire, were trying to stop the peace process "against the will of the international community and all humanity". He said the PLO denounced the attack and was against all kinds of terrorism.

A diplomat said the Israeli, Egyptian and US foreign ministers had planned to meet in Geneva next Sunday to prepare the way for the first direct Israeli-Palestinian talks, to be held in Cairo. This was to follow a planned meeting tomorrow of the Central Committee of Mr Shamir's Likud party, with the Israeli leader facing a direct challenge from Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade Minister, and other right-wingers, who believe his plan for Arab elections in the occupied territories will inevitably pave the way for a PLO-dominated Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza,



One of 17 Israeli tourists injured in a terrorist attack on their bus in Egypt arriving at a Tel Aviv hospital yesterday, after being flown home with other victims.

whose real aim would be the destruction of the adjoining Jewish state.

The Likud session was yesterday postponed because of the period of mourning, and diplomats said the Israeli-Egyptian-US meeting was also unlikely to take place in the near future. Mr Moshe Arens, the Foreign Minister, insisted it could not be long delayed.

In a statement claiming responsibility for the bus attack, the Islamic Jihad organization said the "the heroes of our great Palestinian people", acting as a unit of the "Lovers of Martyrdom Battalion", had launched a "lightning attack" on a "Zionist bus" carrying a number of Jewish reserve officers, soldiers and spies sent to Egypt. In reality the tour bus, travelling from Rafah on the Israeli border to Cairo, was Egyptian and the passengers were all unarmed tourists, many of them elderly.

The statement was issued to a news agency in Amman and broadcast by Al Quds (Voice of Jerusalem), the Syrian-based radio station of the extremist splinter group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. It said the attack was timed to coincide with "preparations in the Camp David capital" (Cairo) for a "dialogue of capitulation between a Zionist delegation and Palestinian and Egyptian delegations" to sell Arab rights.

Mr Netanyahu said the attackers had been "brutally genocidal" in their avowed intent to kill Jews. But diplomats pointed out that responsibility for the attack had first been claimed by an obscure body calling itself The Organization for the Oppressed in Egypt's Prisons,

and said the attack appeared aimed as much at President Mubarak and the Egyptian peace treaty with Israel as at Israel itself.

Two Egyptian security guards were also killed on the bus, and an anonymous telephone caller to a news agency in Cairo said the aim had been to "teach Mubarak a lesson" for his "torture" of Muslim fundamentalists. The caller added: "Jews can travel freely in Egypt, while Muslim youths are killed in jail."

Egyptian officials said the attack could also be a blow to tourism in Egypt, which is a valuable source of revenue. But security sources said the professionalism of the attack and its objective of disrupting the peace process suggested that one of the Palestinian splinter groups had probably been responsible.

● Nicosia: The leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the groups within the PLO, yesterday praised the terrorist attack on the tour bus, highlighting the deep divisions within the organization over Mr Arafat's peace initiative with Israel.

Leading article, page 13

## US offer to speed Afghan accord

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, is to propose a new formula for ending the war in Afghanistan when he visits Moscow this week, administration officials said yesterday.

Expanding on a US initiative raised briefly at December's Malta summit, Mr Baker will tell Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart, that America will no longer insist on the removal of President Najibullah as a precondition of any settlement.

Instead the US would allow the Soviet-backed leader to remain in position during a gradual transfer of power, provided his departure was guaranteed at the end of it.

The transitional period would consist of three broad stages — developing a credible coalition of all elements of the Afghan resistance, promoting a dialogue between that coalition and acceptable elements of the Kabul regime to form a new national government, and having that government endorsed by the people.

This process "would address Soviet concerns about not having to deliver their boys on a platter to the resistance", one American official said. Another, quoted in *The New York Times*, said: "Our strategic objective remains the same — self-determination for the Afghan people. What we are talking about here is a slightly new strategy."

In the past we said to the Soviets that Najibullah had to go — period — and that after he goes a process of negotiations can begin. Now we are telling the Soviets that a process is possible that concludes with Najibullah leaving, but not necessarily begins with him leaving."

The official continued: "Baker will tell Shevardnadze that if he can accept the principle that there has to be a transfer of power in Afghanistan away from Najibullah, then we will be ready to be flexible about the timing of that transfer."

"If Shevardnadze says no, then there is nothing to talk about. If he says yes, then we will be willing to talk about some specifics. I can't say that we are highly optimistic that the Soviets will bite, but it's worth a try."

The Administration clearly hopes that the US initiative will be enough to break the deadlock in Afghanistan. Washington originally believed that US-backed Afghan guerrillas would overthrow the Najibullah regime within months of the Soviet withdrawal in February, 1989.

That has not happened. The various guerrilla groups have not formed a united and credible opposition, and some have fought among themselves. The US estimates that Moscow has been giving Mr Najibullah between \$250 million (£150 million) and \$300 million a month in military and economic assistance.

Last month President Bush sent a delegation to the region to assess the chances of existing US policies being able to produce a settlement.

### WORLD ROUNDUP

## Aoun troops take strategic garrison

West Beirut — General Aoun's army has made its first significant advance in the war for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave after six days of merciless bombardment (Juan Carlos Garmez writes). Tanked troops yesterday captured a strategic garrison of the Phalange "Lebanese Forces" militia in the coastal village of Dbayeh, five miles north of Beirut, after several hours of hand-to-hand combat.

If the general's soldiers can retain that position and neutralize hostile artillery emplacements in the hills just above Dbayeh, they could destroy vital supply lines to the militia's strongholds in east Beirut and launch a devastating, perhaps conclusive, ground offensive against the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces in the seaside Karantina area. The Lebanese Forces admitted the fall of Dbayeh, but said it was only a "tactical retreat". Unconfirmed reports said at least 55 combatants were killed in the battle. Unofficial estimates put the total of casualties so far, in the most destructive inter-Christian conflict in Lebanon's protracted civil war, at 277 dead and 1,037 wounded.

## Costa Rica turns right

San José — Señor Rafael Angel Calderón, right, the Social Christian candidate, has become the President of Costa Rica after failing in two previous elections (A Correspondent writes). The conservative's victory over Señor Carlos Manuel Castillo, the candidate of the social democratic Liberation Party, in Sunday's poll, means a probable end to the country's role as a Central American peacekeeper. President Arias, author of the regional peace plan and Nobel Prize winner, was barred constitutionally from a second term. Señor Calderón, a past critic of the plan, said in the campaign that he supported it, but if elected would devote his energies to domestic issues. He is the son of a former President and served as Foreign Minister in the late 1970s. Señor Calderón strongly backs US policy in the region.

## Guards kill Pakistani

Lahore (Reuters) — Indian border guards shot dead a Pakistani demonstrator yesterday and wounded 13 people after the man ran across a ceasefire line to protest against Indian actions in Kashmir, Pakistani officials said. The unidentified man crossed the heavily guarded control line dividing Kashmir, tore down an Indian flag and attacked an Indian guard with a stick, the deputy commissioner of Sialkot told reporters. General strikes paralysed Indian-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan yesterday to press India to allow Kashmiris to decide their future in a plebiscite. In Pakistan all government offices, shops and businesses were closed and no buses ran in the main cities.

## Seoul dissidents jailed

Seoul — A South Korean radical student was sentenced to 10 years in prison and a Roman Catholic priest received an eight-year term yesterday for making unauthorized trips to North Korea (John Gittelsohn writes). As they were taken from the court by Hyon Hyon, Miss Lim Soo Kyung and Father Moon Kyu Hyon chanted: "Wake up judges who Father Moon Kyu Hyon chanted: 'Wake up judges who ignore unification!' Judge Hwang Sang Hyon said in the Seoul District Court that the couple had violated South Korea's strict anti-communist national security laws and had become pawns of North Korean propaganda."

## Chirac looks to UK

Paris — M Jacques Chirac, the neo-Gaullist leader and unsuccessful presidential candidate against President Mitterrand, has called for a parliamentary opposition and Shadow Cabinet modelled on Britain's, believing this to be the only way to defeat the ruling Socialists in the 1990 parliamentary elections (Alan Tiltier writes). At his RPR parliamentary elections on Sunday M Chirac is expected to defeat a right-wing revolt against his leadership. His desire to emulate "British democracy" enjoys support in the party but not among other conservative groups.

## Scent of victory as ANC trial adjourned

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

While politicians endeavour to map out a new future for South Africa, the courts are still grappling with the legacy of its bloody past.

A few yards from the Parliament buildings where President de Klerk announced on Friday that "the season of violence is over", the Supreme Court in Cape Town yesterday resumed the task of dealing with its aftermath.

An air of expectancy permeated Court No 1 where 14 alleged members of the African National Congress (ANC) face charges of terrorism in connection with a series of bomb and mine attacks in 1986 and 1987. The blasts caused considerable damage, but no casualties.

The ANC flag formed a background of defiance in the packed public gallery overlooking the well of the court, and in spite of warnings to remain silent the crowd erupted in songs and chants of "Viva" as the accused entered the dock.

After a routine cross-examination of a security policeman, Mr Hendrik Clem, for the state, requested a one-week adjournment to reconsider the case in view of Mr de Klerk's

proclamation withdrawing a 30-year ban on the ANC and releasing political prisoners not convicted of violence. The judge's agreement was the signal for another outburst of triumph and cries, as the defendants and their supporters sensed partial victory in what they regard as a purely political trial.

Defence counsel said they hoped that indictments against eight of the accused, who are not charged with specific acts of violence, might be withdrawn.

The issues in the trial are central to the controversy over who should benefit from Mr de Klerk's announcement. The Government says violent criminals are excluded, while anti-apartheid activists insist that all political prisoners should be freed regardless of their alleged activities. The fact that Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, shares the latter view has become an obstacle to his release.

Even by the standards of South African terrorism trials, the case is a remarkable one. The accused represent a cross-section of society, comprising nine blacks, three Coloureds (mixed race) and two whites. Five of them are women.

One of the principal accused is Miss Jennifer Ann Schreiner, aged 33, who

comes from a distinguished family which has included eminent judges and a former prime minister of the Cape Colony.

Leading the defence is Mr David de Villiers, QC, who represented the Government in the World Court in The Hague in the 1960s, when it was charged with illegal occupation of South West Africa (Namibia). He has since become a convert to the anti-apartheid movement.

The trial, which began almost a year ago, produced the first public allegations that police "death squads" recruited former ANC activists to hunt down and kill their erstwhile comrades.

Mr de Villiers has closely questioned security policemen about allegations of brutality, amounting to physical and psychological torture. The court has heard that one of the defendants was shot four times in the thigh by a sergeant, who took his shattered leg by the ankle and "cranked it like the starting handle of a vintage car, making noises like a car starting." A warrant officer was said to have jumped up and down on the leg of another suspect which had been broken by a pistol shot.

Another security policeman denied that he encouraged Miss Schreiner to

commit suicide. He admitted, however, that he had a cartoon on a wall of his office which he thought was "funny and ingenious", because it depicted a machine "you could climb into and then choose from 12 different ways to kill yourself". He did not think it would affect detainees who saw it, and he said he told Miss Schreiner stories about ghosts and suicide to "put her at ease".

Miss Schreiner is said to have subsequently attempted suicide in her cell by hanging, slashing her wrists and drinking contact lens cleaner.

The accused refused to plead when the trial opened, and Mr Tony Yengeni, alleged to be their commander, read a statement saying it was the state which stood accused of terrorism.

● Extremist raid: What appears to be a new white extremist group in South Africa has emerged after the weekend attack on the British Embassy in Pretoria in which windows were shattered by gunfire and right-wing slogans spray-painted on the gates. Nobody was injured.

The Afrikaans message said: "The struggle begins — Order of the Boer People." Police said yesterday they had never heard of the group.

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### Boat people repatriation

## Hopes of UK-Hanoi deal

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to visit Vietnam next week for talks which could lead to an agreement between London and Hanoi on sending larger numbers of boat people back from Hong Kong.

Britain is understood to be willing to help Vietnam pay for new reception facilities to cope with those returning, so removing the main obstacle to mandatory repatriation plans.

London wanted to send a second plane-load of boat people to Vietnam early last month, but Hanoi did not approve the passenger list.

It is understood to have argued that its limited facilities were occupied fully coping with the large numbers of people returning voluntarily, leaving no space for those sent against their will.

Mr Maude will be in Hanoi from February 18 to 21, and by then it should be clear whether a final attempt by Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to resolve dif-

ferences between Britain and the United States has any chance of success.

But it is already clear the odds are against Mr Stoltenberg, because of Washington's continued opposition to the British scheme. Hopes are fading of resolving the dispute which prevented a 29-nation agreement 12 days ago.

A deal between Hanoi and the British and Hong Kong governments, without involving other countries, looks increasingly likely.

Whitehall sources said there was no objection in principle to giving aid to Vietnam, because Britain's conditions will have been met. The conditions were that Vietnamese troops should be removed from Cambodia and that there should be a solution to the boat people problem.

The UNHCR would not be able to monitor a scheme which did not have multilateral approval. The Government used the British Embassy in Hanoi to ensure that the first 51 people sent back in December were not perso-

cut, but accepts that this would not be adequate if numbers were much larger.

The Commissioner is expected to make a second approach to British relief agencies, who showed no enthusiasm when asked last year to monitor the scheme. A deal between the two countries would disappoint the UNHCR, who has tried to bridge the differences between London and Washington.

At first sight, the gap looks fairly small. The US has demanded a one-year moratorium before mandatory flights are resumed, while Britain is unwilling to go beyond six months.

The reluctance to split the difference, as Vietnam suggested, stems mainly from concern in Washington over the screening system operated by Hong Kong. The Americans, who contribute more of the UNHCR's budget than any other country, are unwilling to allow his officials to monitor a mandatory scheme run by Britain unless screening safeguards are improved.

Defence sources in Canberra yesterday insisted that Australia does not have an enemy in Asia and were opposed strongly to a film that gave credibility to the idea. Mr Lawrence's concept is believed to have been influenced by the new craze for watching

horrific Vietnam War footage. His approach was described as "fashionable but misguided".

Mr Lawrence described his latest set of scripts, to teach infantrymen how to kill the enemy after an ambush, as highly dramatized with "lots of blood and gore" to lend them greater realism than earlier films. The attackers are "Oriental soldiers" in black pyjamas with Kalashnikovs,

## Tumbledown hero's vision of Asian hordes rejected

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

The Australian Army has turned down a bloodthirsty new series of battle training films because they portray the nation's "enemy" as Asians wearing black pyjamas and firing Kalashnikov rifles.

The series writer is Robert Lawrence, MC, the Falklands victim whose story was told in the controversial film *Tumbledown*. The award-winning BBC drama will be shown in Australia tomorrow night.

Mr Lawrence, a lieutenant in the Scots Guards during the Falklands War, is now a Sydney-based film-maker promoting the military life with recruitment films and his controversial training series for the Australian Defence Forces. It was the latter which is now considered too extreme and racially inflammatory by the military hierarchy in Australia.

Defence sources in Canberra yesterday insisted that Australia does not have an enemy in Asia and were opposed strongly to a film that gave credibility to the idea. Mr Lawrence's concept is believed to have been influenced by the new craze for watching

horrific Vietnam War footage. His approach was described as "fashionable but misguided".

Mr Lawrence described his latest set of scripts, to teach infantrymen how to kill the enemy after an ambush, as highly dramatized with "lots of blood and gore" to lend them greater realism than earlier films. The attackers are "Oriental soldiers" in black pyjamas with Kalashnikovs,

who were to have appeared as stationary targets for ease of identification.

Official concern has been voiced that the image could be inflammatory, particularly as Canberra is trying to build stronger diplomatic and trade relations with its neighbours and shed the old image of its white Australia policy.

Yesterday the Department of Defence in Canberra said

that any film which portrays Australia with an Asian enemy would not be welcome.

Asian countries, where Australia has strong allies, are not seen as a specific threat now or in the foreseeable future. It is pointed out that Australia would need seven to 10 years before it had the capability to fight on Asian territory.

None of the five military powers in the region — India, China, Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union — is deemed to pose a territorial

threat to Australia. Yesterday it was suggested that Mr Lawrence should portray the enemy in proper uniforms and make them look racially nondescript.

The nine 20-minute films are being made for the Army by Film Australia in Sydney. Now the scripts are being reviewed at a high level, posing the question of who Australia's enemy is.

Mr Lawrence says one of the problems with recruitment is that there is no perceived threat for Australians to defend. His imagery was designed to stir up interest among young infantrymen.

Mr Lawrence said that "you want to keep the Diggers interested", so "it's fairly dramatic with lots of blood and gore".

The military is too soft in Australia, according to Mr Lawrence, who believes that to make really hard soldiers, like his old platoon in the Scots Guards, the "brutal" training of the British Army is necessary.

"It's obviously morally wrong to treat 16 and 17-year-olds so badly," he said. "That's the dilemma in making an army tough."

Mr Lawrence sees no contradiction in the making of *Tumbledown*, an anti-war film, and his new job promoting young professionals to join the armed forces. He says that he is keen to do the battle-training series to learn how to make war sequences, to fulfil his ambition of producing a feature film.



Mr Lawrence: Scripts have "lots of blood and gore".



# Soviet reformers still some way from grasping real power

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

The long-awaited meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee began in Moscow yesterday in secret, despite Sunday's numerous calls from party reformers and Moscow demonstrators for live television transmission. It was not until the evening that the Soviet population knew what had been said.

The decision to ignore pressure from an increasingly politicized public and follow instead the practice of decades was a small but significant sign of the continuing hold of tradition in the upper echelons of the party and its instinct for self-preservation.

It also offers a warning against assuming that the comprehensive overhaul of the party, leaked by a semi-official news agency at the weekend, will survive the two or three days of

discussion intact or, even if it does, that it will be implemented.

The high profile adopted by the reformers, the preponderance of reformers in certain branches of the Soviet media, their openness to other journalists' inquiries, and their gift for presentation tend to give the impression that they are in the ascendancy. They were able on Sunday to bring an estimated 300,000 on to the streets of Moscow in their support, but they are not — or not yet — people with real power.

Sunday's demonstrators represented diverse causes, their placards were unanimous in calling for the removal from the leadership of the two men most closely identified with the conservatives in the leadership: Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Secretary responsible for agriculture, and General Dmitri Yazov, the Defence Minister.

The loudest cheers were reserved for

three people who represent, in different forms, opposition to the party leadership — now or in the past.

One was Mr Boris Yeltsin, who won a landslide victory in Moscow's elections to the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Moscow (Reuters) — An explosion at one of the largest thermal power stations in Transcaucasia yesterday caused widespread power shortages in Azerbaijan. The explosion at the Aznerga plant near Mingachay, 270 miles north-west of Baku, caused the roof to collapse in the machine room and a fire broke out.

last year after being removed from the Moscow first secretaryship and the Politburo.

Another was General Matvei Shaposhnikov, now head of the unofficial trade union in the military, who was disgraced and expelled from the

party after refusing to give the order to shoot demonstrators during the food riots in Novocherkassk in 1962. His party membership was restored last year.

The third was Mr Telman Gdilyan, the investigator who has led a personal crusade against corruption in party hierarchy and was responsible for bringing scions of the Brezhnev clan to justice.

Last year he turned his attention to more contemporary matters and accused Mr Ligachov of accepting a bribe. He was rewarded by formal censure from the party Central Committee (which found the allegation unjustified) and removal from his job. What these three popular heroes have in common is the public stand they have taken against what they see as the pernicious grip of "conservatism" on the party leadership. As one-time insiders, all should know what they are talking about.

After Sunday's demonstration, there

seems little doubt that the removal of Mr Ligachov and General Yazov from the leadership would be hailed generally as a victory for the reformers and an unambiguous statement by President Gorbachev of where he stands in the reform debate, almost regardless of how many like-minded people were left behind in senior positions.

A popular argument has been that Mr Ligachov is less dangerous to the Gorbachev reforms inside the leadership than he would be outside it. If that is still the prevailing view, then he might find himself promoted before the end of the week to joint deputy chairman of the party — working alongside another deputy chairman of very different persuasion, like Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev.

The removal of General Yazov from his candidate membership of the Politburo — and his inevitable removal from

the Defence Ministry that would follow would, in contrast, carry few risks and several benefits. As well as removing a conservative from the leadership, it would allow the civilian leaders to distance themselves from the use of toxic chemicals in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, last year and the aftermath of the military intervention in Baku.

General Shaposhnikov on Sunday claimed that Mr Gorbachev had rescinded General Yazov's order calling up reservists to serve in Azerbaijan. If so, General Yazov's days at the Defence Ministry must be numbered.

But taken personnel changes will not by themselves accelerate the reform programme. That change has to be implemented by officials, many of whom believe sincerely that the reforms are either too rapid or misconceived and most of whom are desperate to keep their jobs.

## Ceausescu's tragic legacy to Romanian children

# Aids epidemic 'most serious in world'

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Dr Jacques Lebas, a leading French Aids expert, yesterday described the paediatric Aids epidemic in Romania as being on a par with a famine disaster and the spread of the disease among children here as more serious than anywhere in the world, including Africa.

The latest official Romanian statistics, published yesterday, showed a further increase. They revealed that of the 1,025 young children in Romanian hospitals and orphanages so far tested, 367 or 36 per cent were HIV-positive and of those 60 per cent had symptoms of full-blown Aids. None is expected to live for long.

No tests have yet been possible to determine the spread of the disease among ordinary children living at home, but that is also likely to prove high.

The findings, confirmed by the 10-strong team of French volunteers, have serious implications for children in the Soviet Union, another country where cases have already been discovered of Aids being spread among children of unaffected parents by tainted blood supplies or the multiple use of needles.

Dr Lebas, president of Médecins du Monde, a voluntary group, was speaking on the eve of the arrival of a special team from the World Health Organization, dispatched to investigate the epidemic suppressed under Ceausescu, who designated all material related to it as a "state secret".

The doctor, aged 41, acknowledged as one of the world's top experts on the Aids disaster in Africa, appealed directly to British specialists to fly out to Romania to work alongside his French colleagues. He also called on Britain to assist in providing vital blood-testing equipment and disposable needles which would help control the epidemic.

"At first we were extremely sceptical when the figures were sent to us. They seemed quite unbelievable and we

knew, after the initial high estimates of the dead in the revolution, that Romanians had a reputation for inflated statistics," Dr Lebas said. "But now we have checked ourselves and we support them. It is a very, very serious problem."

The doctor said the epidemic uncovered by Romanian experts led by Dr Ion Petruscu, head of Bucharest's Institute of Virology, was unique in world medical experience because it was spreading horizontally among children rather than vertically from infected mothers to their children, as happened in the West and in Africa.

According to the institute's figures, of those mothers of infected children tracked down and tested, 98 per cent

Bucharest — Professor Silvia Brucan, the former *dimanche* grise behind Romania's post-revolutionary Government, said yesterday that he still hoped to play a role despite announcing his resignation from the executive of the National Salvation Front on Sunday. His comments added to the political confusion.

have been negative of the HIV virus. "The disease has been coming from infected blood and infected needles," said the doctor, "and what is shocking is that it is still coming from them, even as I speak to you. The world must take urgent action to deal with this terrible disaster."

He said it was believed that the majority of the blood used was Romanian, although some of the supplies may have been provided by visiting foreign students. Despite the infected blood, experts here still maintain that the incidence of Aids among adult Romanians is low.

Dr Lebas disclosed that one of the main reasons for the rapid spread of the unrelenting paediatric epidemic was the Romanian practice of micro-transfusions, the giving of between 10 and 20ccs of blood to newborn babies discovered

to be under weight or under-sized, usually as a result of malnutrition or premature birth.

The doctor was addressing a press conference after visiting the horrific children's Aids unit of Bucharest's Victor Babes Hospital for infectious diseases, described in *The Times* yesterday, and the city's Orphanage No 1.

There, tests have shown that among the 718 orphans, the number suffering from hepatitis B — another virus spread by contaminated blood and needles — had jumped from only one in 1986 to 51 in 1988.

"Conditions in the hospital were appalling, almost indescribable, worse than any I have seen in African Aids hospitals because at least there the mothers and children are together. In a single bed in Bucharest I found five Aids-suffering children, two of whom were dying almost as I looked on," Dr Lebas said.

"The medical staff had virtually no equipment, no drugs with which to cope. It was more like a 'corridor for the dying' than a hospital."

Despite recent warnings put out since the December revolution by the interim administration, the doctor found that, in both the hospital and orphanage, injections with shared needles were continuing.

Under antiquated Romanian conditions, still deeply affected by Ceausescu's propaganda claim that Romania was Aids-free, blood transfusions is still being used unchecked in all areas, but in the capital single needles are being used (often without adequate sterilization) for more than 100 injections.

"Even this morning I found a doctor injecting a child with an old needle in the orphanage."

"When I asked why, she explained that the child could either die now of the pulmonary infection she was trying to cure or die in the future of a theoretical Aids virus," the doctor explained.



A Romanian woman making the most of a sunny day by collecting wood for her kitchen fire. Living conditions in the village of Branesti, 12 miles east of Bucharest, are still hard.

## Separatist calls for boycott of Estonian polls

From Anatol Lieven, Tallinn

Mr Trivimi Velliste, an Estonian nationalist leader, has called on his countrymen to boycott the March 18 elections to the republic's supreme soviet and to set up a separate congress for which only citizens of the pre-war Estonian state and their descendants would be eligible to vote.

The proposal, if adopted, would disenfranchise most of Estonia's almost 300,000 Russians, around 31 per cent of the population, many of whom moved to the republic under Soviet rule.

The congress is to be elected on February 24, Estonia's National Day, and there are also plans to set up a parliament. So far "citizens' committees" claim to have registered more than 600,000 pre-war Estonian nationals and their descendants, and the committees now rival the Popular Front in influence.

The role both the congress and parliament would play, if established, remains unclear, and many Estonians are cautious about the proposal. Leaders of the citizens' committee appeared on television on Sunday night to emphasize that Mr Velliste's boycott call was a purely personal one.

The Popular Front leadership, which has been trying, so far with limited success, to gain support among the republic's Russians and other small minorities like the Ukrainians, has expressed reservations about the congress.

Other Estonians seem to take a relaxed view of the apparent clash between different strategies. "Independence is so important that we should keep all possible paths to it open," one said.

An Estonian official said: "Moscow will certainly refuse to negotiate with anything that emerges from the congress, because they will say it is undemocratic. None the less, it will be very useful for our government in negotiating with Moscow to have the congress there as a threat."

Many candidates, including

several from the Communist Party, are standing for both congress and the Estonian supreme soviet.

One consequence of the congress, if successful, might be to force to the sidelines Communist leaders such as Mr Arnold Ruutel, the Estonian President, and Mr Indrek Toome, the Prime Minister, who have managed to transform themselves into patriotic heroes by appearing to stand up to the Kremlin.

Mr Velliste, who issued his call on Friday, is head of the Heritage Society, a group active in the republic's national revival. It claims to have been the first, in 1988, to fly the old Estonian flag, now seen everywhere in Tallinn.

He argues that Soviet political institutions, extended to Estonia after the Soviet annexation of the republic in 1940, do not have legal validity in the republic.

"In the past it was compulsory to vote in Soviet elections; but it would be absurd to do so today when we have a choice. It is up to us alone if we follow our own national institutions or adhere to the illegal Soviet constitutional system," he said.

The Russians are "illegal immigrants", brought to Estonia as a civilian part of an "army of occupation", according to Mr Velliste and others. As such, they say, "under international law they are therefore people with no rights".

Mr Velliste and all Estonian spokesmen deny that they have any plans to expel Russians after independence. "They have always been the deportees, not us," he said in a reference to the mass deportations of Estonians under Stalin.

As yet, however, such promises appear to have had little impact on the majority of Russians here.

Many seem more inclined to listen to the warnings of the Russian nationalist Interfront movement.

## Albanians defy threats of Milosevic

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Tens of thousands of Albanians in the Kosovo region yesterday joined in a silent demonstration in memory of those killed in recent protests. Work stopped for a minute as people gathered on the streets, their hands raised in victory signs.

The protest was made as Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, launched a fierce attack on the Yugoslav state presidency, accusing it of delaying tactics and announcing that Serbia intends to take up in the federal Parliament its responsibility for failing to quell the demonstrations in Kosovo.

At least 20,000 Albanians gathered in the centre of

Pristina, capital of Kosovo, and other towns at 2pm in response to the call for a minute of silence for the 29 people killed during the protests, many of them shot in the back of the head.

Human rights groups have compiled evidence that the police fired indiscriminately at crowds and accused police of engaging in terrorism. They called on the Yugoslav presidency and the federal Parliament to initiate a parliamentary inquiry into the deaths.

Mr Milosevic meanwhile addressed a special meeting of the Serbian leadership and fanned ethnic emotions by accusing Croatia and Slovenia

of supporting Albanian "terrorists" and their allies in the Yugoslav presidency.

Instead of favouring dialogue with those groups and parties which enjoy Albanian trust in the region, Mr Milosevic announced sanctions against political strikes and protests. He made it clear that Serbia would not negotiate with the Albanian alternative groups which, he said, under the guise of democracy and concern for human rights were pursuing separatist ends.

The support allegedly given to the Albanian protesters, he said, was intended to prevent the Yugoslav presidency from taking action in time. He said Serbia intended to raise the

presidency's responsibilities when the Kosovo situation was discussed in Parliament later this week, when it seems Serbia will press for the resignation of those it holds responsible.

At the same time, he said Serbia was capable of securing peace and order and safeguarding the Serbian population in the region, but warned that "every Serb was ready to march on Kosovo if terror were to continue."

Mr Milosevic, who met a group of Serbs on Sunday who are ready to settle in Kosovo, indicated that a drive to colonize the region by Serbs is part of his policy, saying that hundreds of thousands of

Serbs should settle there to change the demographic picture which, over the past decades, had changed as the Albanian population grew to more than 1,700,000, while the Serbs decreased to less than 8 per cent.

Some 300,000 Albanians in the region have signed a petition for democracy and against violence. There have been no protests as tension has receded and calm is maintained by the presence of tanks and troops.

Some 2,000 police reinforcements were sent from Serbia after Slovenia withdrew its police unit and Croatia announced that it would follow suit.

## Letter from Kosovo Polje

# Serbian thirst for revenge undimmed after 600 years

Soon after Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the fiery leader of Yugoslavia's Serbs, came to power in 1988, he electrified a huge rally of diehard nationalists by promising: "This time we are going to win the battle of Kosovo."

The moment for lamentation was past, he declared: Serbs must now be ready to fight to rescue their countrymen "exposed to terror and hatred" in the southern province with its overwhelmingly Albanian population.

Nobody in the cheering crowd needed to be reminded what their hero was talking about. The battle of Kosovo Polje — "Field of Black Birds" — may have taken place six centuries ago, but the crushing defeat of a great Serbian army by the invading Turkish forces has never been forgotten in a region where revenge for past wrongs must often be a dish tasted cold.

There is no forgiveness, either, for the Albanians, who at that time were beginning to settle in the Kosovo plain and who converted to Islam during the Turkish occupation, gradually taking the fertile lands that once formed part of the Serbian empire. About two million of them now live in the province and the passions aroused by their treatment at the hands of Serbian authorities regularly explode into violence in the shabby towns.

For the Serbs, the words carved in medieval script into the tall granite memorial above the original battlefield richly convey the matching passion that Kosovo arouses in patriotic hearts: "If any Serb, or person of Serbian extraction, has never come to this spot, he will never father a child, male or female, his fields will be barren, he will find neither good wine nor white wheat."

In June last year, Mr Milosevic came to this shrine above the windswept plain, where flocks of cawing black birds still gather, for a ceremony to mark the 600th anniversary of the battle. He was accompanied by the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, an unsuitable reminder of the fact that Kosovo was the seat of an archbishop before the Turks imposed their faith there.

At the time, the whole province was under a state of emergency, imposed in response to a

mounting wave of protests against rule from Belgrade. Some 25 Albanians had already been killed in clashes in the streets, scores more were hauled off to jail under the tough special regulations.

It is not hard to imagine the feelings of Serbs and Albanians alike at such a charged historical moment. In Serbian eyes, defeat at Kosovo Polje had come at a moment of national weakness, after squabbles between numerous factions had deprived them of a strong and central unifying power.

Updated and refined by Mr Milosevic, the message of his presence at the monument was, in crystal-clear, Here was the man to restore the Serbian nation to its rightful place — and how better to start than by putting Kosovo's Albanians, who have chased our fellow citizens from this land", back in theirs?

For their part, most Albanians concluded that the Serbian nose was tightening fast and might never again be loosened if their resistance were now to crack. There is, after all, an uneasy weight of 20th-century history on their shoulders. In 1912 the losing fight against Serbia, while the Second World War saw the community collaborate with the Nazi occupation (by some counts, 10,000 Serbs perished at Albanian hands).

In Kosovo today perhaps the only point on which the two sides agree is that it is too late to hope for a political compromise reached by negotiations between reasonable men. They want to kill us all, say the Albanians, justifying the violent resistance they want to drive the last of us out for good, say Serbs, justifying the call for arms to protect themselves.

Back at the monument above Kosovo Polje, a helicopter could be seen clattering off right on cue, a pair of MIG fighters streaked across the plain on another sortie to remind all concerned that, as the Yugoslav jigsaw of race, culture and religion threatens to fall apart, the all-powerful armed forces are looking on in dismay from the wings.

Philip Jacobson

## West to raise an army of military inspectors

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Member governments are beginning to set up one of the most expensive and complex military operations in Nato's history to verify Soviet disarmament.

The programme will involve monitoring the withdrawal of up to 400,000 Soviet troops from Europe and the destruction of 170,000 items of Warsaw Pact equipment. No government has yet calculated the bill for the programme, but military sources believe it threatens in the short term to swallow up whatever "peace dividends" arise from defence cuts.

Provided the Nato-Warsaw Pact negotiations at the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna are satisfactorily completed, the West expects a treaty to be signed in September, giving Britain and other Nato countries just

seven months in which to build up and train an "army" of verification experts.

In Britain, the Government is expected soon to announce the setting up of a Joint Arms Control Implementation Group with headquarters away from London. The plan is to create a team of 270 dedicated inspectors, many of whom will need to be Russian speakers as well as having the "recognition skills" of experienced intelligence officers.

According to British sources, it is hoped that special alliance exercises will be held later this year to rehearse the methods and roles of the official "cheat teams" who, armed with cameras, portable recorders and binoculars, will be required to roam through Eastern Europe and the western sector of the Soviet Union for years to

come to ensure that the historic treaty is not violated.

The sources admitted there could be "utter chaos" if East and West failed to prepare properly for the complex verification process.

Apart from the roving teams, thousands of military personnel and civilians will be caught up in the huge verification operation. They will be responsible for looking after Warsaw Pact visitors arriving for spot checks of alliance armament factories and to oversee the destruction of "treaty-limited items".

Nato will have 80,000 pieces of military equipment to destroy under the planned treaty. So far there has been little co-ordination within Nato about the size and status of these inspection teams, although Britain and France

appear to be planning along the same lines.

Governments recognize, however, that, if it is to attract enough volunteers, arms control verification is going to have to be presented as a specialist new career.

Ministry of Defence officials in charge of the British programme are already campaigning for volunteers, but among their problems is the dearth of Russian speakers in the armed forces.

So far, indeed, only two volunteers have been signed up for the British "peace programme". It is hoped, however, that servicemen and women will soon queue up for the job when they realize that it entails "a personal involvement in forging the new era of peace in Europe."

The Ministry of Defence hopes to fill 47 per cent of the

posts with personnel from the Army, 35 per cent from the RAF, 12 per cent from the Navy and the rest civilians. Retired officers will also be accepted.

British sources said the job would not mean just "sitting outside a Soviet armaments factory in Omsk". It would also involve intelligence assessment of Soviet deployments.

"They'll have to know the difference between a row of tanks lined up just for show and those that have recently completed an exercise," one source said.

Apart from "counting tanks" — as well as artillery, armoured combat vehicles, aircraft and helicopters — inspectors will have to monitor the destruction programme, a particularly enormous task for the Soviet Union.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# EC agrees to widen its Eastern bloc aid package

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

European Community foreign ministers yesterday agreed to extend to five more countries in Eastern Europe the multinational aid now being given to Poland and Hungary.

But they laid down strict conditions, and expressed concern that there should be no backsliding by the new governments in their commitment to fair elections and multi-party democracy. They also made it clear that Eastern Europe was not entitled to automatic aid from the West, and that all assistance should be costed properly.

The five countries which the EC believes now qualify for the aid given by the Group of 24 donor nations are Bulgaria, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia. However, in return they have to guarantee the rule of law, the upholding of human rights, a multi-party system, free and fair elections, and economic liberalization leading to establishment of market economies.

The Twelve yesterday also approved a plan, outlined by the European Commission last week, to offer new association agreements to all East European countries, except the Soviet Union, to reinforce stability and encourage new forms of co-operation with the Community.

But Brussels has made it starkly clear that, unlike earlier association agreements with Greece and Turkey, the new arrangements with Eastern Europe would not include any promise of eventual EC membership.

Several East European nations have made no secret of their wish to become members. Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, told M Jacques Delors, the Commission president, during talks here last week, that Warsaw had this aim. Prague wants an explicit commitment to open membership talks in five years' time. Brussels hopes that trade and co-operation agreements, now being negotiated with East Germany, Bulgaria and Romania, can be completed within a few months.

After a lengthy briefing by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, the Twelve also discussed the latest moves towards German reunification yesterday, including the recent plan put forward by Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister.

Herr Genscher reiterated Bonn's insistence that neutrality was not an option for West Germany. But the ministers agreed that the proposed summit this year by the 35 signatories to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe could be a useful forum to discuss steps towards German reunification.

Sources here suggest that this summit — which was first proposed by President Gorbachev — could take place in Vienna within six months, before the West German elections in December.

The association agreements now being offered to Eastern Europe are similar to those which are enjoyed by the six countries of the European Free Trade Association.

However, association for the Soviet Union is not yet possible in view of the scale of its economy, officials here say. Ministers will meet again in Dublin on February 20.

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# Modrow hopes coalition unity will bar way to chaos

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

East Germany's new "coalition of national responsibility", made up of government ministers and leading opposition figures, met yesterday for the first time to try to steady the country as it lurches towards the March election.

The Prime Minister, Herr Hans Modrow, said that the formation of a consensus government was now essential to prevent instability between now and March 18.

"Without this sense of responsibility, the country is ungovernable," he said.

In a speech to the Volkskammer (Parliament), Herr Modrow said that the situation in East Germany was "worsening weekly", with strikes now spreading from the south of the country to the main industrial centres.

He served warning that the Government could not be kept in place until the election without increased efforts to find a consensus on the government and preparations for the polls.

The new, extended coalition leads Herr Modrow's Government a legitimacy which he had been lacking. There are now weekly revelations of past electoral frauds and many deputies complained yesterday that they were no longer accepted by their constituents.

The eight new ministers without portfolio are leading lights of the opposition movements, but are unlikely to attract support from the disgruntled workers who are downing tools in the country's factories.

The Volkskammer also approved a new law guaranteeing media freedom for the first time in 40 years. The country's newspapers and television, previously the voice of the communist party's media department, will in future be independent public bodies with a duty to report the programme and activities of all political organizations in the country.

All censorship has now been ended. The move is a welcome boost for the opposition groups in the run-up to the election.

The new law also guarantees the impartiality of the East German news agency, ADN, which has continued to show signs of pro-communist bias even after this has been largely dropped by the rest of the media.

Herr Modrow defended to the Volkskammer his speech on German unity last week in the wake of criticism within his own party — the newly renamed Party of Democratic Socialism — that he was pushing the pace of reunification too fast for East German interests.

"Reunification of the two Germanies is now on the agenda," he said. "That is a sentiment that one has to recognize to remain credible as a pragmatic politician."

He denied that his concept of a neutral, unified Germany had been a condition for pursuing talks with Bonn. "I never thought that my concept would achieve agreement on all sides. There are far too many competing interests involved internationally for that."

The Volkskammer voted to deny the right of participation in elections to the extreme right-wing Republican Party.

● BONN: The continuing flood of ethnic German refugees into West Germany — more than 100,000 have arrived this year in addition to the million who came in the previous two years — has reinforced political pressure for quick monetary union with East Germany in order to provide a quick cure for the economic malaise at the root of the exodus (Jan Murray writes).

"It is a matter of urgency that we should begin discussions on this at once," Herr



Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, left, in discussion with opposition colleagues, Herr Lothar de Maiziere, centre, and Herr Peter Moreth, in the Volkskammer.

will give the economy a jolt like the one we had after the Second World War." He promised to introduce the Deutschmark as the currency of both countries as soon as a free market economy was introduced in the East. That would give the Bundesbank control of currency on both sides of the border.

However, cautious West German financial experts are not yet ready to rush into monetary union, and the East German authorities are refusing to hand over control of the currency to anyone.

Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, flies to Berlin today to discuss the economy with Herr Horst Kammann, president of the East German central bank, and Frau Christina Luft, the Economics Minister in the transitional Government.

Herr Pöhl has said that it is time for West German politicians to stop letting their emotions rule their minds, and to take a realistic look at the issues and difficulties of currency union. In his meetings today he will be emphasizing the problems and the time it will take to achieve union. He is likely to be assured that there is no rush.

According to Herr Wolfgang Krebs, the bank official in charge of dealings with the West, any idea that East Germany is ready to give up its monetary sovereignty is "complete nonsense". He dismissed a report in *Handelsblatt*, the main West German economic newspaper, that the bank was ready to hand over its authority to the Bundesbank if the DM became the official currency.

"Sovereignty is a question of existence for us. The report is outrageous and completely false."

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## Bid to help Britain tap Soviet market

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

An international head-hunting business founded partly by a British company has opened a Moscow office to recruit staff to help UK firms make the best of the opportunities now provided by 330 million East bloc customers wanting consumer goods.

The move comes amid warnings that British industry will lose out badly in the battle for one of the world's last great untapped markets unless boardroom attitudes change significantly.

Potential British recruits, meanwhile, fear that once they are established in the East bloc they will be "forgotten" by senior UK managements, much as managers sometimes were in the colonies.

Now that McDonald's, the international chain, has given Muscovites the taste for Western fast food, the hunt is on for executives who can explain and teach the benefits of a free market and co-operate with East bloc countries in joint ventures worth billions.

The Moscow office is being opened by Transsearch International, which is established in 24 countries. Although the office will be staffed by specially trained Soviet citizens, it is envisaged that at least 70 per cent of the recruits for Soviet projects will come from outside the country.

In Britain, the role of finding top executives is being spearheaded by Merton Associates, the executive search and management consultants who have conducted a survey of potential recruits which is highly critical of the attitude of top British bosses.

While most of the 200 executives and managers on Merton's list who can speak an East European language are enthusiastic to work in the East bloc, they view with little optimism the chances of more British companies successfully setting up joint ventures unless there is a significant change in attitude.

Merton says that the UK is currently in fourth position in the international league of companies undertaking joint ventures in the Soviet Union and fifth overall in other East European countries. It warns, however, that Britain is slipping back and could soon trail behind even Finland and South Korea.

Financial reward was cited by prospective candidates as the most important factor for deciding whether to accept jobs.

**Prince sacked** — The ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates has sacked his brother, the Crown Prince and deputy ruler, who attempted a coup against him.

**Space ride** — Mr Alexander Viktorov and Mr Alexander Serebrov, the cosmonauts, left the orbital space station Mir for a second ride on their space scooter.

**Attack fears** — Greek and US experts fear a terrorist attack as an elusive urban guerrilla group claimed it stole two anti-tank rocket launchers from a war museum here.

**Cyclone toll** — Cyclone Ofi killed at least four people as it stormed across the South Pacific.

**Famine plea** — Northern Ethiopian rebels have asked to meet aid agencies to discuss a stalled famine relief mission into Tigray.

**Soldier killed** — Separatist rebels shot dead a soldier on the South Pacific island of Bougainville yesterday, Papua New Guinea radio reported.

**Pedal power** — Thousands of extra cyclists crowded the city's streets yesterday as residents faced a 24-hour public transport strike.

**Fakes found** — Japanese police have discovered another 3,000 counterfeit gold pieces, bringing to 11,000 the total of fake Emperor Hirohito coins known to have been imported from Britain.



February 5 1990

## PARLIAMENT

# MPs in renewed demands for Wallace inquiry

There were renewed demands from MPs for a wider inquiry into the Colin Wallace affair during a series of points of order.

MPs said that further evidence had come to light and repeatedly called for a further statement from the Government. This, the Opposition spokesmen said, should preferably come from the Prime Minister.

Questioning of the Speaker began when Mr Martin O'Neill, chief Opposition spokesman on defence, said that over the weekend a number of individuals had indicated their willingness to testify on a wide range of matters relating to this case, far wider in scope than the external and internal inquiries announced by the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Tom King).

Mr Michael Taylor and Mr Peter Broderick had spoken out in defence of their former colleague (Mr Wallace) and expressed willingness to testify. The publication of a book on the matter by Mr Anthony Cavendish was imminent.

Public interest was now being fed by a series of unconnected rumours. It would be preferable for MPs to be told that a proper and wide-ranging inquiry was to be established to clear away rumour and innuendo.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that he had received no government request for a statement.

Mr Stanley Orme (Salisbury, East, Lab) quoted Mr Michael Taylor, a former Army information officer, as saying that he (Mr Taylor) supported everything Mr Wallace had said about the "Clockwork Orange" operation involving the smearing of British politicians.

Mr Taylor had said: "I

remember the Clockwork Orange files well as I regularly had to check their location and access control."

Further evidence had been given by Mr Peter Broderick, former head of Army information, that the smear campaign had been aimed at ministers in the Heath and Wilson administrations.

"I think that the Leader of the House (Sir Geoffrey Howe) should respond to these accusations and come forward and meet the demand for a full inquiry. This matter will not go away and the House will continue to press it."

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) said that on Friday the Ministry of Defence had sent him (Mr Skinner) and Mr Ken Livingstone (Barnet, East, Lab) letters regarding the sequence of events arising from answers to questions the previous day.

The Prime Minister had said that she had brought the matter to the House immediately and Mr King that he had also brought it to the House straightaway. Yet in answer to Mr Skinner's question, Mr King had said that the document was first discovered early last year.

The letter to himself and Mr Livingstone had contradicted that, saying that the document had been found in early 1989 (interruption) and another in July (interruption)...

The Speaker said that these were matters for ministers. He could not reply.

Mr Skinner: What I want you to understand is that we have had misleading answers last Thursday from the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence.

It is not proper to try to cover their tracks by sending letters to backbenchers. They have a duty to tell this House that they

misled the House. It is a contempt of this House.

Sir David Steel (Twickenham, Lib Dem) said that further information had come to light since the statement on Thursday. MPs were entitled to press the Government for a statement.

If the Government would not make one, he (Sir David) asked the Speaker not to reply too quickly on the question of whether this was a matter of privilege. More might emerge if the matter were referred to the Committee of Privileges.

The Speaker said that he would look at the matter of privilege, as he looked at all matters, with great care. "I have yet to carry out further investigations."

Dr John Cunniff, chief Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, said that it was unsatisfactory to continue to raise these matters on points of order to the Speaker, who could not respond.

He hoped that the Leader of the House would ensure another statement, preferably and ideally from the Prime Minister, on this subject. Would Sir Geoffrey also provide a debate in government time to explore the issue fully rather than simply pursue these matters on points of order every day?

The Speaker said that he wholly agreed.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley, Con) said that the name about the good name of the Commons was not confined to the Opposition.

"Since the Government has nothing to fear from a full statement and since it is now clear that matters have come to light since last Thursday night, Friday, I would urge the Government to reconsider their position."

Mr Skinner: And resign.



The Rev Jesse Jackson, the US politician, visiting the Commons yesterday, with (left) Mr Bernie Grant, Ms Diane Abbott and Mr Keith Vaz.

## House of Lords

# Peers attack 'conditional fee' proposal

Government plans to introduce conditional fee agreements for lawyers - the so-called "no win, no fee" proposal - were criticised sharply when the committee stage of the Courts and Legal Services Bill resumed in the Lords.

Lord Rix of Ewell (C), opposing the inclusion of the provision in the Bill, said that for the first time it gave an advocate a direct financial interest in the results of the case. If permitted, it would develop into speculative litigation, some of which could amount to "blackmailing actions" and eventually British litigation would resemble the American system. At present, there were no

financial consequences arising from the result of the case. The advocate was regarded as an officer of the court. He had a duty to the court.

It would be argued that the clause would give those with reduced means better access to the courts. Forty years ago, the UK had addressed that with the provision of legal aid. The worst feature of that had fallen away badly.

"I fear that, by this, the Government gives the impression of seeking some demeaning alternative to funding property the legal aid fund."

Lord Acker (Ind), a Lord of Appeal, said that they were entitled to inquire what had

happened to justify the Government's volte face on this subject.

Lord Rix said that they were not discussing that type of contingency fee which involved taking a share of the damages if one was acting for the successful party, but something not very far from it - a conditional fee agreement under which solicitors and barristers would be paid only if they won the case for a client and, he supposed, as a compensation for the risk, they would be paid a higher percentage of fees than would normally be the case.

If the client lost, he would still have to pay any costs awarded against him. He would also have to pay his own counsel and

solicitor more than usual if he won the case but his opponent did not have the means to pay costs.

The conditional fee proposal was a poor substitute for improved legal aid.

Lord Hailsham of St Margaret, a former Lord Chancellor, said that this was an evil thing and it could only be described as evil and corrupt to an honourable profession.

He said that it was a stark and simple moral issue. A conditional fee of the type proposed, which was only one example of the contingency fee though, was inherently immoral. "It undermines the whole ethic of advocacy."

# Big arms cuts 'would heighten submarine force threat'

Any large-scale reduction in land forces in Europe would make the Warsaw Pact submarine force the primary potential threat to the West, Mr Michael Neupert, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, told MPs when he opened the annual debate on the Royal Navy.

The Opposition later called for less threatening and provocative exercises from the Navy and a serious and co-operative mood for arms control.

Mr Neupert said that, although the resurgence of democratic values in the East was welcome, optimism about reducing tension between East and West should be tempered with caution.

What the Government wanted to see now was the Soviet Union dismantling its capability

to mount a surprise attack against the Nato countries of Europe. The Warsaw Pact submarine force had been the initiative in maritime arms control. That was not the Government's view.

"Calls from the East for maritime arms control ignore Nato's continuing dependence on reinforcement and resupply shipping from the United States in the event of war. The Warsaw Pact is a land-based alliance with overland lines of communication. It does not depend on the sea and does not have the same logistic considerations as Nato."

In peacetime, Western Europe needed 1,000 shipsloads of food and raw materials a month to sustain it. In war, it would need 800 shipsloads for military needs alone. Nato's defensive

strategy continued to depend, among other things, on its ability to keep open these sea lanes of communication.

The Soviet Union continued to invest heavily in modernising its maritime forces, so the Royal Navy had a vital part in Nato's ability to counteract the potential threat that those forces represented.

If there were large-scale arms reductions in land forces, the "primary potential threat" would be that posed by a Soviet submarine force which was numerically strong and becoming ever more capable.

The highest priority had to be placed on maintaining an effective anti-submarine warfare capability. Without that, the Royal Navy could not provide adequate defence for the Nato forces it was supposed to pro-

## ROYAL NAVY

test, nor could it offer a reasonable prospect of keeping open the sea lanes.

It could best be achieved by a combination of Royal Navy frigates, conventional and nuclear submarines, helicopters and Royal Air Force maritime patrol aircraft.

The Government was keen to get the EH101 helicopters into service at the earliest possible moment, but it would be wrong for the Ministry of Defence to concentrate on production until it was fully satisfied about performance and cost.

The ministry intended to improve the contractual arrangements by negotiating a maximum price with Westland

for its share of developing the aircraft and by appointing a prime contractor next year.

The prime contractor would be responsible for the overall performance of the helicopter, including all its mission equipment. The measures would ensure that the EH101 would be the most advanced and capable anti-submarine warfare helicopter in the world.

Despite the remarkable changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the Government's maritime policy would continue to be appropriate for the foreseeable future to ensure the country's peace and prosperity.

Mr Roland Byers, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said that cuts in defence spending had been made by France, Germany and the United States.

But the Prime Minister was sticking to her Cold War tactics by increasing rather than decreasing spending.

If there was a genuine desire to keep President Gorbachev in power, it should be expressed by less provocative military activity.

Britain had a chance to play a central role in reducing the dangers of war at sea. But the Government was being as obstinate as ever. Ministers should ignore the hawks who argued that they should wait for perestroika to cut the size of the Soviet Navy.

They should be working to ensure that they had a naval policy that was both affordable and contributed to world security.

The Royal Navy's present task in wartime would be to

provide anti-submarine support to United States battle-carrier groups launching offensive operations against Soviet naval bases in the Kola Peninsula.

In the event of a crisis, the main British task would be to keep the Norwegian Sea clear for the United States fleet.

"We need... a change in the strategy, in line with the change in Soviet strategy and our security interest and ability to pay."

Referring to the problems with HMS Warspite, he said that some of the nuclear-powered submarines should be decommissioned. "I am not at all convinced from the evidence I received, independent of government evidence, that the boats are as safe and secure as the Government wants us to believe."

# We want rise in pensioners' total income, says minister

Government policies were aimed at increasing the total income of pensioners rather than offering concessions such as free television licences, Mrs Gillian Shephard, Under Secretary of State for Social Security, told MPs at questions.

In response to Mr Keith Vaz (Leicester East, Lab), she said that high priority was attached to the needs of the elderly. The success of government policies had resulted in a 23 per cent real terms increase in average total income of pensioners between 1979 and 1986.

Mr Vaz said that would not be of comfort to the millions of pensioners who were in difficult economic circumstances. What advice would she give to one of his pensioner constituents who had had to return to work part time as a cleaner in order to pay for her television licence?

Was there not a strong case for additional financial support to help pensioners with their standing charges and television licences?

Mrs Shephard said that con-

ditionary licences for pensioners was a matter for the Home Secretary.

Measures introduced in October last year had directed an extra £200 million towards elderly, poor and disabled pensioners which had helped more than 2.6 million individuals, 100,000 of whom had been given help for the first time through income support and housing benefit.

Mrs Emma Nicholson (West Devon and Torridge, C) asked Mrs Shephard to look at the case of pensioners who had worked hard and saved hard all their lives and were living in their own homes and not receiving social security, but living on less money than pensioners next door on social security who had not followed that course.

Mrs Shephard said that the Government considered the £8,000 limit on capital for housing benefit and £6,000 limit for income support struck the right balance between protecting the less well off and the taxpayer.

Between 1974 and 1979, pen-

sioners' income from savings fell by 16 per cent in real terms, whereas between 1979 and 1986, it rose by 64 per cent in real terms, Mr Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, told MPs at questions.

Mr Michael Sheehy (Uxbridge, C) said that those figures demonstrated a big increase in pensioners' incomes under the present Government compared with the previous Labour Administration.

The unique benefit that accrued to British women whereby they got a pension through their husband's contributions, taken with other related benefits, meant the British pension was one of the best in the European Community.

Mr Newton endorsed that view. The important thing was that pensioners' income from savings had been an important ingredient in the average total income of pensioners.

Many European countries did not pay married women a pension on their husband's contributions and

that was a big advantage of the British system.

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling, C) said that, although most pensioners had done better under this Government than under Labour, those who existed only on state pensions had not. Had the Government not been right therefore to introduce a poorer pensioners' package specially directed to help that group?

Mr Newton agreed.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab) said that most pensioners realized that, under Labour, those depending on state pensions had had a real terms increase in pensions of 20 per cent, while under the present Government it was only 2 per cent.

He asked the Government not to write newspaper articles acknowledging exactly the Government's case and stating that his own party's policies did not focus on the needs of those pensioners who lived on state pensions.

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Mr Michael Mascher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security,



Mr Newton: Big rise in pensioners' income from savings had been virtually no increase over the past decade and, of the remainder, the two biggest factors for increases in

asked for confirmation that the poorest one-fifth of pensioners had pensioners' incomes had been high interest rates, which increased the return on investments at the expense of mortgage misery for millions, and the maturing of Serps, a Labour Government scheme?

Mr Newton said that the two most striking points in what had happened had been the growth in income from occupational pensions and growth of income from savings.

Far fewer pensioners were now in the bottom one-fifth of the nation's income distribution.

During last year's questions, Sir Trevor Skeet (North Bedfordshire, C) said that, while occupational pensions had increased over recent years, that was small consolation to those who depended only on state pensions.

Mr Newton said that it was precisely for that reason that last October the Government had announced increases in housing and other support of £200 million for less well off pensioners.

# Making life easier for TV producers

By Robert Morgan  
Parliamentary Staff

The House of Commons has embarked on a series of changes to its procedures designed, according to its proponents, to "protect private members' time".

Mr Dennis Skinner is among Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who are not convinced. The reason for the changes, the MP for Bolton believes, is "mainly the television cameras".

"Everywhere the television cameras have gone, they have managed to fashion the activities that they screen", he said last week when the changes were debated.

The Procedure Committee has put forward a package of measures concerning the rules governing the introduction and debating of private members' Bills and motions. The Bills are more often seen as a device for airing the favorite causes of backbenchers than as a means of securing changes in the law, although in the past, significant changes, such as the repeal of capital punishment and the relaxation of the abortion law originated in private members' Bills.

The House voted last Thursday in favour of one of five motions. That was to prevent the introduction of a 10-minute rule Bill on Budget day. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, who was proposing the change, told MPs that when he was Chancellor he had always welcomed the opportunity to "get into my Budget speech without having to wait for a 10-minute Bill".

Quite so. But should the House of



Mr Skinner: One MP who is not convinced by the argument

Commons so order its procedures to meet the wishes of one minister, however senior? In recent years the Budget speech has been disrupted by interjections from Scottish nationalist MPs. Is the next move to stop all interruptions of the Budget?

The introduction of a 10-minute Bill at prime time would give the MP sponsoring the Bill and any MP opposing it a

great deal of publicity. It might delay the start of the Budget for half an hour and it would be of great inconvenience to television producers and studio experts (it would be inconvenient to the press, too, but no one has ever sought to change the rules for the convenience of Fleet Street).

Other measures that the House is considering, but has yet to vote on, concern the way business on Fridays is controlled. Last stems from an incident during the last session when alleged "cheating" by Miss Ann Widdecombe (Maidstone, C) was "out-cried" by Mr Skinner. Miss Widdecombe had sought to use time allocated for debating private members' motions to secure more time later for a Bill on abortion. Mr Skinner out-manoeuvred her by moving the writ for the Richmond by-election. With his ally, he spoke for most of the day, thus blocking debate on the subject entirely before the House.

Is this procedural skirmishing any more reprehensible than a football team using an offside trap? Apparently so. It is now proposed that the business set down for a Friday will come up on that Friday. Television viewers will not find themselves watching a speech by Mr Skinner on the winter climate of Yorkshire when they had expected a speech by Miss Widdecombe on the evils of late abortion.

Under the proposed change, any debate on a by-election writ will be cut short if it is opposed. However, a motion is not opposed until the mover sits down

and the opposer starts. The answer is for the mover to speak all day. The counter is for the MP with the Bill or motion to move the writ formally and sit down, having recruited a supporter to "oppose" the writ and thus end the debate.

On Thursday only a handful of backbenchers were present to argue about "their time" and only 38 voted against the Budget day proposal. They did not listen to the warning from the Liberal Democrat Mr Alan Beith. He said: "The House must think carefully before changing its procedures in response to one or two incidents because the House runs a risk when it does that."

He cited as an example the now defunct device of wiping out the next day's business by keeping the House sitting all night and all the next morning debating the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Now the House just sits all night with closed debates. This is much more convenient to ministers, and the next day's business is secure.

Other more radical changes to Commons procedure have not been proposed formally by the House.

There is a suggestion from the Government of limiting the time taken by ministers, or sitting regular and more normal hours, or having fixed dates for recesses. Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North, Lab), a long-time advocate of change, Mr Skinner and others unhappy with some of the present arcane procedures face a long haul.

Unless, that is, it turns out that change would suit TV: that might speed it up.

# 'Wrecking' move comes under fire

By Sheila Guss  
Political Reporter

A leading Conservative peer faces criticism in the Lords today for seeking to wreck the Warnock legislation on human embryo research.

Lady Elles, the former Conservative MEP for Thames Valley, has alarmed the Government's business managers and procedural experts by tabling a last-minute amendment to the first clause to be debated today.

They believe that it will, if passed, effectively ban all experiments on human embryos. That would ruin their strategy to give peers a free vote on alternative clauses on Thursday.

The alternative clauses in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill either ban all research or allow it up to 14 days under strict licensing conditions. Despite intense lobbying for both sides of the controversy, many peers still appear to be wavering.

However, they are concerned that a vote for a total ban this week on all experiments will tear out an important part of the Bill and prevent debate on possible restrictions for research. Lord Henderson of

## EMBRYOLOGY

Brompton, a former Clerk of the Parliaments, held talks yesterday with Lord Denham, the Government Chief Whip, when they concluded that Lady Elles's proposal endangers Thursday's free vote.

Lord Henderson said: "It is a wrecking amendment on clause 1, there is no doubt about that. It should not come up before Thursday's free vote on clause 11."

Groups campaigning for controlled embryo research will lobby the Parliament tomorrow on behalf of families affected by genetic disease.

MPs have also been promised a free vote on alternative clauses when the Bill goes to the Commons.

Although peers have agreed informally not to use the Warnock legislation for changing the abortion laws, the whips are expecting heated exchanges on many of the amendments.

Security will be tightened in the public gallery to prevent demonstrations or outbursts during the Bill's passage through the Lords.

# Aids lessons for prisoners

Prison governors have been told that they must give all prisoners in custody for four weeks or more, and who are willing, an educational package on Aids during the present year.

In a written reply, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said that the package, *Aids Inside and Out*, must be delivered in 1989-90 to prisoners, or failing that, they must be shown a 20-minute video which is the core of the educational package.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, C) said that the money should be used to improve food in the MPs' canteens, which was pretty awful.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said that the money should be used to improve the wages of staff in the MPs' canteens, who were grossly underpaid, taking home little more than £10 a week.

Parliament today  
Commons (2.30): Questions: Defence; Prime Minister. Debate on agriculture.

Lords (2.30): Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, committee, first day.

السؤال الأول



# A free soul, speaking for all

STEPHEN MARKESON

In 1986 the Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky was allowed to emigrate to Israel. In London last week he talked to Barbara Amiel about his feelings on the momentous changes sweeping his homeland, his view of Gorbachov — and what the West should do now

What is it that makes one man so different from another? What special piece of clothing hangs in his spiritual wardrobe? I reflected on the question again last week, when once more I went to see Natan Sharansky, who was in London to raise money for the Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

The most important thing, Sharansky told me when I asked him about his values, "is to hear the free soul within ourselves. But you see, people don't often hear themselves, and they don't often let themselves hear their souls freely. It was this sense of inner freedom that I found in the prisons of the Soviet Union which kept me alive, and which will help keep me alive."

When Sharansky arrived in Israel his external freedom was greatly increased, but I wondered about his inner freedom. Was he tempted to self-censor and modify his thoughts once again, in order to have them coincide with one political party or interest group, and to have a feeling of belonging?

"From the beginning," Sharansky explains, "almost every group hoped or tried to convince me that I had to be their spokesman. The strong nationalists, what is called the right wing, said 'Our struggle is your struggle'. The left were saying 'Your struggle for human rights is our struggle'. The secular groups saw me as one of them, and the religious parties were saying 'You see, religion helped you win'. I have to say that each one of them had some reason for what they were saying."

"But, you see, I don't like definitions. I don't think people can live in accordance with definitions. I try to express what I really feel, without thinking which parties I appeal to. The most important thing is to hear one's free soul, and that's what I am trying to do."

Sharansky's first concern, in spite of his wishful desire to "stop being a full-time professional Soviet Jew", remains the question of human rights in the Soviet Union. I asked him what he thought of Mikhail Gorbachov.

"Well, he deserves all the credit for being the first leader who saw that the economic system doesn't work. His mistake was that he believed that if he gives a bit of freedom to the people, they'll be so happy, so loyal, they'll start working better, the system will be improved and the empire saved."

"But there is no such thing as a little bit of freedom. All people are slaves or are free, and the moment he started this process there was no way back. Now it's clear that he knows himself that he cannot save both the economy and the empire. He will have to abandon this dream or he will have to draw the line with blood, with tanks, whatever. I think he's still trying to avoid making the final decision and that's the worst for everybody, that creates this awful instability, uncertainty, fears."

"The West is partially responsible for the mistake of Gorbachov, because he saw that whenever he comes to Germany, to London, whatever, he really changes the reality. The people love him so much. So he thought that if nothing else could help, his personal presence in Lithuania could."

"And what was the message he brought to Lithuania? He said: 'Look, if you succeed, I lose. I will

fall. If I fall it is bad for everybody, you agree? But that is exactly the type of theory which is convincing for the West. Whenever you talk to any western leader, he says: 'But if Gorbachov falls it is bad for all of us, so better let's help him, let's not do this and this.' He hopes the same ideology will convince the Lithuanians, but of course it didn't convince. Now he must make the choice and he knows that the only real way to avoid a massacre and open civil war is to find a flexible way of dismantling the empire."

What, I wondered, do these new initiatives towards the non-dominance of the Communist Party mean? Is it a move towards western pluralism? Sharansky hopes so, but is not sure.

"If he decides to let the empire go, and keep only the Russians, Gorbachov will have to find a way to convince the army, KGB and Russian people as a whole to accept this. It's very difficult for them, because for years they were the core of empire, you understand? I think the only movement in Russia which can replace Communist ideology is not western-type pluralism, it's a strong national, I'd say chauvinistic, and very anti-Semitic movement."

What, I wondered, should the West do now? Sharansky was perfectly clear on this.

"Linkage, linkage. I think it is time for the West to stop giving confusing messages such as on the one hand we want freedom for the Baltics, on the other hand we want Gorbachov to survive so let's not rock the boat. They have to come to Gorbachov and say very clearly: 'Look, we never accepted your right to the Baltics, we don't accept it today. These people want to secede, you are afraid of the political complications and that we may use your weakness against you. But we are ready to sit with you, and see how we can guarantee ways in which there will be no political problems while they are seceding. You are afraid of economic complications if they secede, and we are ready to discuss ways in which we can help you and them economically in order to make this process of secession smoother. But we are ready to help you only if this process of the liberation of peoples continues.'"

The West, I suggested, has been very supportive in Gorbachov's use of troops in the dispute between Azerbaijan and the Armenians. In this matter, Gorbachov is seen as a man simply trying to keep the peace between warring ethnic factions.

But in fact, the dispute entirely an ethnic one? Is it not, as well, a revolt against the dominance of the Communist Party? Sharansky agreed.

"Of course you can say that he had to save the Armenians from pogroms, and I agree. But why didn't he do it a couple of years ago? Everybody knew what was happening there... and nothing was done. Absolutely nothing. Indeed, the troops only came when the pogroms had gone almost berserk."

"Now, I don't say the KGB organized these pogroms. They didn't have to organize them, they simply had to see that they were not kept under control. But they did need some reason to mobilize the army. The troops are now in Azerbaijan, and now they are not dealing with the pogroms but destroying the National Front of Azerbaijan. It is also a message to the National Fronts of Latvia,

Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Moldova, and all of them are now becoming very, very concerned."

Sharansky's own special concern is the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. The rule of the Kremlin has also meant the rule of Russians over Moldavia, Ukraine, Georgia etc, and so there is co-incidentally an anti-Russian, nationalist sentiment as well as an anti-Communist one. But the Russian parts of the Soviet Union are not immune to the rise of nationalism, although they obviously don't share the anti-Russian

Soviet television there was a serious discussion between two guests about the appeal by Pamyat to have a pogrom on May 5. They were seriously discussing what should be done about this opportunity of a pogrom."

The problem, as Sharansky sees it, is that under the absolute tyranny of the state, everything, including crime and pogroms, was nationalized. One didn't have private initiatives in wickedness or evil. But that monopoly has been lost under perestroika and glasnost.

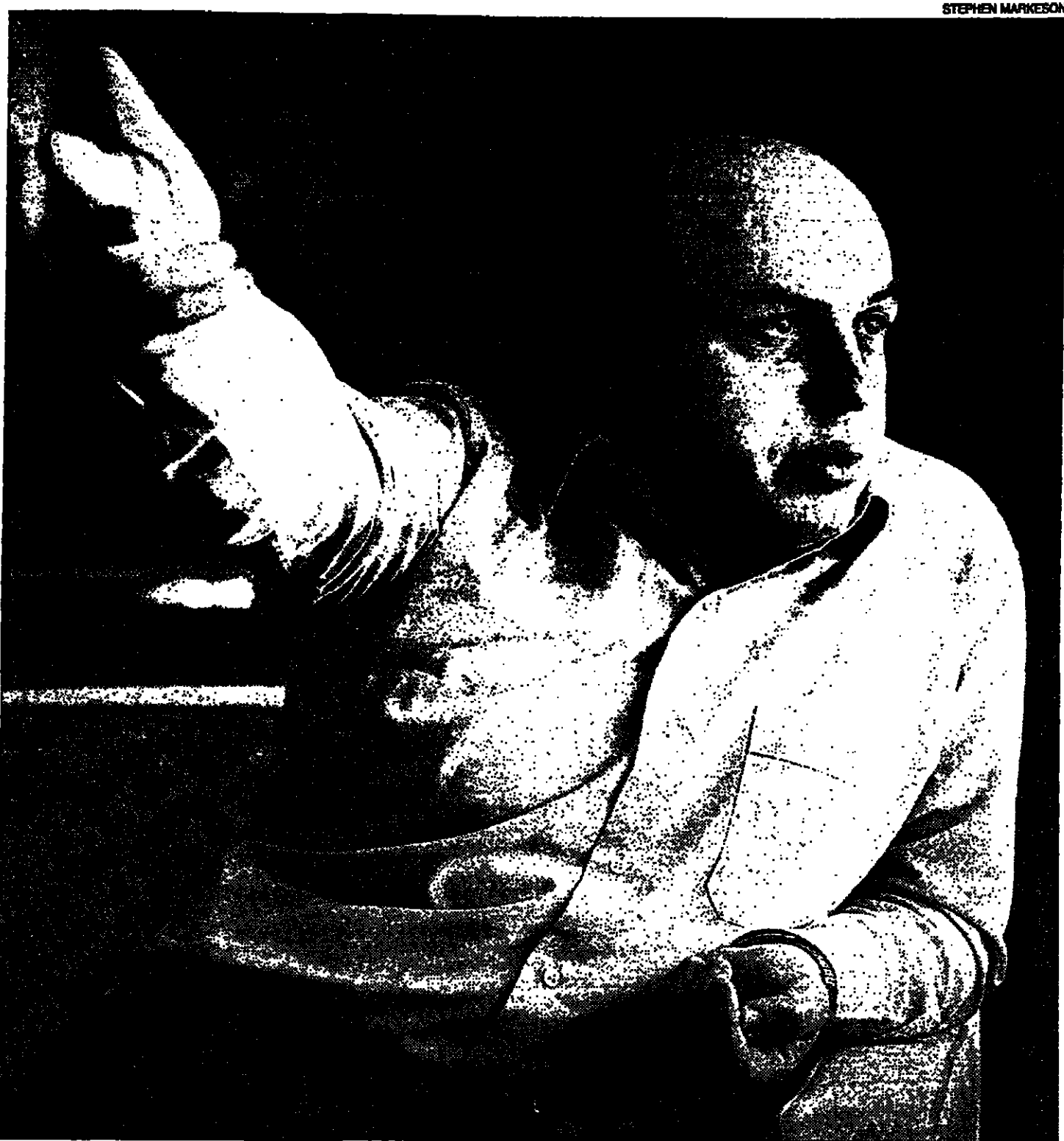
"One of the peculiarities was that under totalitarianism there could be no pogroms; they were not permitted, because that would be a threat to the regime itself. Still, all the time the people were fed 'anti-Zionist' propaganda, and for generations the Jews were thought of as some Masonic sect with ambitions to rule the world."

"This new liberalizing has not created any democratic institutions, but it has permitted the people to express themselves. And immediately you see this rise of a primitive anti-Semitism. What is Pamyat saying? Why are the Russian people drinking so much vodka? Because of this Masonic Jewish lot, who want to rule Russia and for years were selling vodka and seducing the Russian people with it. Why is our economy in such bad shape? Because around Lenin, around Stalin, there were Jewish advisers who had a mission to destroy the Russian economy. Now today it's more serious than a primitive, street-level anti-Semitism. For the first time the Russian people have realized what an awful history they have had. It is no longer simply Solzhenitsyn saying there were 60 million victims of state terror; now conservative Soviet

export, and import always as nouns, with the accent on the first syllable, even when they are using them as verbs. So a handy little marker distinction is being worn away. If you wanted to hoist the black flag of prescriptivism, you could say that this is pure ignorance, and that people who make their living from broadcasting words should take the trouble to pronounce them correctly. Speakers on Radio 3 almost always manage to refer to compact discs. Speakers on Radios 2 and 4 almost always pronounce the compact as though it were a noun.

The tendency of broadcasters to put the emphasis on unimportant little words such as prepositions, especially, "of", and in particular to give heavy emphasis to the little indefinite article, saying it as "ay", may be because this is thought to sound posh; or it may be because it lends an air of portentous importance to their pronunciation. I can see that this can be irritating, particularly first thing in the morning, as can uneducated pronunciations like "drawing" and "the idearof".

Similarly irritating, no doubt, are pronunciations that sound through the shaving soap like



Which way now? Gorbachov's mistake, Sharansky says, was to believe that "if he gives a bit of freedom to the people, the empire will be saved"

"It was this sense of inner freedom that I found in the Soviet prisons which kept me alive, and which will help to keep me alive"

feeling. For them, one of the easiest outlets is anti-Semitism. "Two weeks ago there was a violent incident in the Union of Writers in Moscow when a group of writers, many of them Russian, some Jewish, had a conference, saying we are for the great traditions of Russia but against anti-Semitism. Pamyat [the ultra-right nationalist organization] activists came and said 'You are all kikes, your place is not here', and there were some injuries. Now this is not a pogrom, but pogrom is in the air. Just some days ago on

of the Nixon era of détente. Israel is saying that the Arab *détente* of which the PLO and Arabs speak today cannot be realistic when it is not linked to human rights in Arab countries. The Arabs will sign one agreement and do something else, because their institutions do not have the force of democracy or law. There is a very strong Peace Now movement in Israel. But there will be no such thing in Iraq or Syria, because there such peace movements would end up in show trials. In fact, Iraq can use chemical weapons and there will not even be international condemnation, because only Israel has a free Press and scrutiny and so on.

"My experience of living in Israel tells me this. The problem is not getting Israel to give away land for peace — when the Israelis see a chance for peace, nothing will hold them from it. But the Israelis see

who was Marx? Someone is saying that the grandfather of Lenin was Jewish. They are saying that it was the Jew Trotsky who destroyed all Lenin's ideology, and it was the Jew Kaganovich who was dictating to Stalin what to do and so on, and they find some Jewish names among the leaders of the KGB, and *voilà!* And of course you can find these names, because there were also Jews who believed in Bolshevism, just like Russians. I am not optimistic. I think this strong chauvinist nationalism, with its deep undercurrents of anti-Semitism, will be strong in the years to come."

Given the recent terrorist attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt, I wondered how Sharansky felt about human rights for the Palestinians.

"I have sympathy and understanding for people who live in these terrible conditions in the refugee camps. We must do everything we can to destroy the camps. But the problem is that the PLO has been taking a human rights problem and turning it into the problem of the struggle against the existence of Israel."

"The difficulty is that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. It is a problem much like that

'Gorbachov knows he cannot save both the economy and the empire. He will have to abandon this dream, or draw the line with blood'

no one they can rely upon. All the moderate Arabs are killed by other militant Arabs. I feel that the only solution is for the Soviet Union and America to press for a more open Arab society."

As a Jew, was Sharansky afraid of German reunification?

"There are a lot of fears about it and I hope the Germans understand the reasons. On the other hand, I don't think there is any way that the world can interfere and stop it. It is up to the German people to decide what they want. The free world has to take in advance all possible steps to start the dialogue and make sure there will be sufficient guarantees. We saw a very big difference between the attitude of the West and East Germans to Israel and the consequences of the Holocaust. As the changes in Eastern Germany are democratic ones, I hope the result will be a Germany sympathetic to Israel."

I asked Sharansky how Andrei Sakharov might feel if he were witnessing the events today.

"The last week before Sakharov passed away I spoke with him twice on the telephone. He was invited to come to Israel for some conference, and he telephoned and said he couldn't come because on December 11 there would be a Congress of the Deputies. And then he said: 'We will have a very big battle over the sixth article of the Soviet Constitution about one-party rule. We are demanding a multi-party system.' He said: 'Gorbachov and all his people are against it. There will be a lot of protests, and I cannot leave at this moment.' And as you know he lost this battle, with 2,100 voices against 1,700 voices — no big surprise, as the majority is appointed by the party. And the next night he died of a heart attack."

"And later, thinking about it, I thought that it's very symbolic that he lost his last battle. In fact all the battles that I remember from '73, when I was working with him, he lost. He was so naïve, so far from reality, so non-realistic in the maximizing of his demands. He didn't have any clear aim, like dissidents. We wanted to leave. He didn't. He was simply not accepting this evil, and believed that he had to speak openly even if there is no hope. So he was losing and losing every battle."

"But if you look at what's happening in the world today, who's the winner? Who made it all happen, this? In the sense that his naïveté was maybe the most powerful weapon which kept hope in this world alive, and which made all these changes."

Britain's Lost Battle: part 2 is in the second section on page 25

## It's not what you say, it's how you say it

It is rash, and possibly offensive, to pontificate about other people's pronunciation. Because of its size and mongrel origins, English admits more varieties of pronunciation than any other tongue since Babel. Pronunciation is a notorious field for the old English war-games of class distinction and social shibboleth: how you pronounce *how* is reckoned (by snobs) a sure dividing-rod between U and Non-U.

As Albert Chevalier sang in the music-hall: "Aitches don't make artists — there ain't no H in Art." Horatio Bottomley, the rogue journalist and financier, called to see Lord Cholmondeley and pronounced the name as it looks. "Lord Chumley, sir," corrected the butler. "Oh, all right," said Bottomley. "Tell him that Mr Bumley would like to see him." It is offensive and rash to pontificate about pronunciation. So, here goes.

There is a lot more public pronunciation around these days, because of the vast increase in broadcasting and pop songs. We all get to hear a much wider range of regional and class accents. But of regional and class accents in the process some useful distinctions in pronouncing, which have

been established over the years, are being eroded, to the detriment of us all.

For example, there is a useful tendency to distinguish between nouns on the one hand, and verbs and adjectives on the other, when they are spelt the same, by pronouncing them differently. The general rule has been established that the noun accents the first syllable, but the verb, and to a lesser extent the adjective, stress the second. Thus, the president and his consort. But, do not consort lubriciously with presidents' consorts. She is an expert gardener. But, she is an expert (noun) at the names of flowers. We have a conflict here. But that headline conflicts with the text.

The distinction is a nice one, and it is not fully established with some words, for example: *incline*, *construe*, *excerpt*. With words of more than two syllables, such as *compliment*, practice varies widely; but there is still a useful tendency to put the stress on the first syllable when the word is a noun, and to splash the stress around a bit when it is a verb.

This distinction seems to me to be being widely ignored, and so eroded. For example, on the

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

I can speak in tongues but my pronunciation lets me down.



BBC's *Today* programme as we struggle to shave and get ourselves together for the day, presenters and reporters continually pronounce such words as *increase*,

export, and import always as nouns, with the accent on the first syllable, even when they are using them as verbs. So a handy little marker distinction is being worn away. If you wanted to hoist the black flag of prescriptivism, you could say that this is pure ignorance, and that people who make their living from broadcasting words should take the trouble to pronounce them correctly. Speakers on Radio 3 almost always manage to refer to compact discs. Speakers on Radios 2 and 4 almost always pronounce the compact as though it were a noun.

The tendency of broadcasters to put the emphasis on unimportant little words such as prepositions, especially, "of", and in particular to give heavy emphasis to the little indefinite article, saying it as "ay", may be because this is thought to sound posh; or it may be because it lends an air of portentous importance to their pronunciation. I can see that this can be irritating, particularly first thing in the morning, as can uneducated pronunciations like "drawing" and "the idearof".

Similarly irritating, no doubt, are pronunciations that sound through the shaving soap like

"ladies (latest) forecast", "specouze (spells)", "Wayouze (Wales)", "violing (violin) concerto", "rape (rate) payers", "hegwaters (headquarters)", "I wamp from (I want for him)", "crab (crowd) problems", "lastir (last year)", and Juke of Kent. Wok can we do? Play music on Radio 3? But these new pronunciations do not usually obscure or distort the meaning. The loss of the distinction in pronouncing nouns and verbs that are spelt the same does, and should accordingly be resisted and corrected by all who care for the huge range of possibilities in English.

This is not a recommendation that everybody should speak the Queen's English with an upper-class, south of England, pruned-and-prims, elocution-educated accent, sometimes called an Oxford accent, or, better these days, the received accent. Let a thousand regional accents flourish. But where we have evolved useful distinctions in pronunciation, and particularly in accent and stress and emphasis, let those of us who care for English fight to maintain them.

Philip Howard

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

East Germany's Communist Party (membership halved by a million since October and still diving) is not the cheeriest of organizations these days. Even more disgruntled are the workmen who are continually employed keeping up with the party's manic manic changes as it tries to convince a sceptical electorate that it is not at all what it was. The giant metal sign outside the party headquarters on Marx-Engels Platz in East Berlin, showing the handshake of the Communists and the Social Democrats in the 1949 merger (in which, I seem to recall, the SPD did not have a lot of choice), was dismantled last week. The thing weighed over a ton and took three days to take down. Instead, modest signs reading "Socialist Unity Party of Germany - Party of Democratic Socialism" were erected around the building. Alas, yet another crisis meeting of the party on Sunday decided that the first half was too reminiscent of the infamous past, so back came the workmen to knock it off. And there are still five weeks to go to the elections. You want votes? Put the sign squad on piecemeal, I say.

My clerical on Nelson Mandela last week started a topical trend. This from V. Chetani of London WCI:

The Securitate  
Were all at a party  
Which is why they failed to rescue  
Ceausescu.

From the Education (Individual Pupils' Achievements) (Information) Regulations 1990: "In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to a numbered regulation is a reference to the regulation bearing that number in these Regulations and any reference in a regulation to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph of that regulation bearing that number." And this from the department that introduced the National Curriculum, which of course has English as a core subject.

Such is the demand for golf these days that it's near-impossible to get membership of a decent club without waiting years. And then there's the interview to judge your suitability. Such is the demand for membership of Sonning golf club near Reading (which I have not played but am told is excellent), that the committee are now calling applicants for interview to see if they are suitable to join the five-year waiting list.

BARRY FANTONI



'How about British Rail?'  
They're known for people standing  
packed together for hours

Douglas Hurd has clearly wanted his own man to head the FO's news department. Brian Mower, information director at his old stamping ground, the Home Office, is coming to join him. I believe it to be only the second time a non-diplomat has been appointed to this job. The first was in 1974 when Sir Tom McCaffrey followed James Callaghan from Home Office to FO, and then on to Number 10. Mower will replace Andrew Burns, a career diplomat. Burns, who has served three foreign secretaries in his 18-month tenure, had the misfortune to succeed the illustrious Christopher Meyer, acknowledged to be a brilliant news department chief. He now resides in a lofty role in the Washington embassy and is tipped to be ambassador in Moscow one day. I await news of Burns's next posting.

Not even the familiar faces of prime ministers are immune from security checks at Westminster. Arriving for a Labour Party press conference the other day, both Prime Minister Jim Hacker (alias Paul Eddington) and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (alias Angela Thorne from the stage play *Anyone for Denis?*) were rigorously searched by the doorkeepers, who totally failed to recognize them, and made them late for the meeting. Eddington complained that his Garrick Club tie should have been enough to let him through unchallenged, while Thorne maintained a quieter dignity than her *alter ego* might have done. The press conference? Oh, about how the Government is making it difficult for school parties to visit the theatre.

Short of actually spotting the lark on the wing and the snail on the thorn, there is nothing so sets a Cricklewood villager up of a morning than the horse on the tarmac.

It usually happens around 11am, that singular moment of the suburban day when the palpable calm which suddenly drops on residential short-cuts after the last company Sierra has slogged through its imagined chicane is, in its turn, gently broken by the small sounds and movements of peripatetic life.

The 1930s return to the suburbs they bore: worn with unraised consciousness, chop carefully down crazy-paving paths, click wrought-iron gates discreetly, and clomp up the paths next door for milky Nescafe and rich tea Osborns and anecdotes of salon and school rota; elderly gentlemen in corduroy trilbies tug terriers away

Four years ago the Government was in great disarray. The Westland affair had caused two Cabinet resignations. Michael Heseltine, promised to be an enraged bull, roamed through the Government's china shop and Leon Brittan had gone amid a welter of allegations of cover-ups. General Motors' negotiations to buy Leyland and Land Rover, and Ford's interest in acquiring the car business, were leaked, plunging the Government into controversy and division. The unfortunate Chief Whip was less than confident that the Government could win a vote on either proposal, and both collapsed.

Backbench morale plummeted the depths as a Gallup poll gave the Alliance 34 per cent, Labour 34 per cent and Conservatives 29 per cent. The controversy over Britain's part in the American air attack on Libya and the loss of the Fulham and Ryedale by-elections were to come. In contrast, despite Labour's present lead in the polls, Nigel Lawson's resignation, the clear divisions between Conservative MPs and MEPs, a rebellion on the community charge and another in prospect over Hong Kong immigration, the backbenches are calm.

Norman Tebbit urges an intensified attack on dependency

## Next task for the Tories

Yet as I see it, Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, has a more difficult game to play with fewer strong cards than I held four years ago. The problems then were almost all political, not economic, and with luck and skill political problems can be resolved quite quickly. Indeed, the Conservatives moved from third place in the polls to first before the end of 1986, and stayed there through the election of 1987 until early 1989.

Today Conservative anxieties centre on the economy. The worry is whether John Major can squeeze down inflation without pushing the country into recession and so allow interest rates to fall and growth to resume in time for a general election in 1991 or 1992. That is out of Ken Baker's hands, so I hope he is already concentrating on the politics of the run-up to the next election and the outline of the campaign itself.

The party chairman must

concentrate ministers' minds on politics as they plan the legislation which will occupy Parliament until the election. By common consent it will be a two-horse campaign, with about 10 per cent going to fringe parties, so the winning threshold will be about 45 per cent. In 1987 it was 38 per cent, and the Government's problems have fed a Labour recovery based on a highly skilled marketing operation by Neil Kinnock's amiable Rasputin, Peter Mandelson.

Labour's pretence of shedding its voter-repellent ideological baggage (nationalization, servility to reactionary trade unions, high taxation, opposition to EC membership, municipal housing, unilateralism) has brought home many former supporters who have backed Mrs Thatcher since 1979. Poor planning of the politics of the NHS reforms, inflation and high interest rates, and now the party's role reversal on immigration, threatens further

to undermine Conservative support.

Top of Ken Baker's agenda must be to assess Labour's election stance and to agree, with Mrs Thatcher, that of the Government. Superficially Labour has the edge with its commitment to finding out what the electors want and promising it. The snag about that is not just the familiar difficulty of being unable to make the sums add up, but that the branches of policy have no central trunks of philosophy or belief from which they have grown. The only attribute they share is a positive balance in the market surveys.

Mrs Thatcher's conviction politics may have disadvantages but, set against Labour's pappy convenience politics, hers should stand out as the superior product. My worry is that, as in 1986, a clear sense of purpose seems to be lacking. Now, as then, the task is to identify the Government's medium and

long-term objectives and, by party conference time in the autumn, to have planned the path towards them. In contrast, Labour's planners will be trying to decide where their rag bag of policies might take them.

The next election will be the first fought on the common ground that collectivist economic policies have failed. Conservatives must now argue that social collectivism has also failed, creating morally impoverished and ugly societies, and that policies to increase self-reliance and personal responsibility are socially responsible. Some bold ambitions must be set out in a serious attack on the dependency culture. Further tax reductions and incentives to personal acquisition of assets other than owner-occupied homes should continue to spread real wealth more widely. Green issues should be stripped of woolly emotionalism, but shown to be of vital personal interest

and dealt with by practical market mechanisms harnessing self-interest as the energizing drive.

The Government has suffered by sounding negative on Europe while the Euro fanatics sound positive. That cannot be put right until party and government agree on what sort of Europe is in the interest and set out the policies to achieve it.

Ministers' eyes seem focused on their feet, looking for banana skins. Mr Baker and Mrs Thatcher need to lift theirs to a horizon beyond the next election. An election campaign in which the Conservatives have arrived at policies directed to the creation of a better country in the Nineties while Labour, having deserted socialism and embraced market research, is promoting a rag bag of hopelessly popular slogans is a prospect any Tory should enjoy. Having abandoned socialism, Labour's marketing men are stirring their party by the treacherous compass of the polls towards a sub-Thatcherite programme in which they do not believe. Kenneth Baker should remember the good politicians' proverb: take care of the principles and the polls will take care of themselves.

R.W. Johnson on the problem of stitching the homelands back into South Africa

## Back in the fold — or freedom?

Durban

President de Klerk's historic speech last Friday has not only produced a great cloud of euphoria here but also a great variety of more surprising reactions. Former self-confessed white supremacists have told me, tears in their eyes, how strongly they support his call for reconciliation between the races based on universal suffrage. Afrikaner Nationalists tell me, sadly, they now feel that everything they party did since 1948 was a mistake. Supporters of the far-right Conservative Party tell me, regretfully, of voters they have lost to de Klerk, swept away by his de Gaulle-like stature.

Ordinary Africans, whom I had expected to speak only of Mandela, want to tell you of de Klerk's wisdom and greatness. Hard-line ANC activists are demanding that their comrades jailed for planting bombs be released — while simultaneously declaring that the armed struggle must go on. If one points out that this means asking the government to release people whose first duty will be to start planting more bombs, such activists simply collapse into embarrassed confusion and laughter.

The fact is that de Klerk has thrown a whole series of fast, spinning balls into the game and that all the other players are groping desperately as they try to work out how to react. While most attention fixates, inevitably, on the ANC response, the reaction of the leaders of the 10 black "homelands" will also have far-reaching significance.

De Klerk's suggestion that

these homelands — the classic fruit of Verwoerdian apartheid — could now be reintegrated into South Africa poses some large and delicate problems. Four are already formally independent — Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana, while six more are self-governing: Lebowa, Gazankulu, KwaZulu, Qwa Qwa, KaNgwane and KwaNdebele (Kwa or Qwa is Zulu for "place of").

The tendency to write off the homelands as merely a collection of corrupt, authoritarian puppet states is a mistake. For a start all their leaders have at least pockets of traditionalist support, bolstered by the assiduous use of state patronage. And some have more than that, most notably Chief Buthelezi of KwaZulu whose Inkatha movement has a far larger signed-up membership than the ANC has ever had.

Moreover, while all the homelands' budgets depend utterly on South African subsidies, the fact remains that this gives their leaders control over a civil service, a police force, universities, sometimes their own airline, development corporations and, in the case of the four independent states, their own armies. It is worth reflecting, as all South African political groups are tipped into the great game of national negotiations, that none of the other players starts with such a useful array of assets, let alone the long experience in government many homeland leaders have now had.

The homeland leaders are, however, very different one from another. Chief Buthelezi of KwaZulu, the biggest homeland

of all, is in a class apart, a commanding though controversial figure whose Inkatha movement has for several years been embroiled in bloody conflict with pro-ANC forces in Natal. Buthelezi still enjoys links with Mandela, however, and his future role, though uncertain, is bound to be significant.

Several of the other homeland leaders have taken out a form of insurance by leaning in a "progressive" or pro-ANC direction in recent years, among them Major-General Holomisa of the sizeable Transkei, who has thus become one of the most intriguing and pivotal new actors on the political stage. Several other homelands, such as Ciskei, Gazankulu and KwaNdebele, are too small to matter much while several have frankly appalling reputations for brutality, corruption and civil strife — the Ciskei again, but also Venda and Lebowa.

This leaves the unique and important case of Bophuthatswana, universally abbreviated to "Bop". Bop has enjoyed important advantages — it is the second largest homeland, it has a foreign border with Botswana, and it enjoys real economic strength, thanks to the Rustenburg platinum mines and the fabled Sun City leisure complex, patronized largely by Johannesburg whites.

Moreover, its leader, Chief Lucas Mangope, long enjoyed a relatively benign and liberal image — opposition parties were tolerated and the university has acted as a welcoming haven to



South African deportees, draft dodgers and dissidents. Most notably of all, Mangope took pains to stress that he had opted for independence not to be a "collaborator" with Pretoria but to have done with apartheid.

Bop deployed a large and successful PR campaign abroad, notably in Britain where the Tory MP Andrew Hunter has been notably successful in arranging trips to Bop for his parliamentary colleagues. Last year 100 Tory MPs signed a

motion calling for British recognition of Bop.

Bop changed, probably forever, on February 10, 1988, when the presidential guard staged a coup against Mangope, partly through a sense of grievance over the large number of South African Defence Force (SADF) officers still seconded to command them. (There has always been a considerable SADF presence in Bop to stem ANC guerrilla incursions over the Botswana border.) The coup

was crushed by South African forces, leaving Mangope's claim to independence in ruins. Since then his position has become increasingly precarious. His army is being extensively retrained, with more SADF officers about than ever. Suspect chiefs have been deposed, the main opposition party banned, and considerable parts of the territory are under martial law.

Last week saw another major blow to Bop's image when John Lewis, a British historian, was ordered to be deported, apparently for having set up a "progressive" staff association at the university. Lewis's case is the more dramatic since he cannot flee to South Africa, having been deported from there in 1987. Not surprisingly, the university is now paralysed by strikes and demonstrations, for its whole tradition of academic freedom is on the line. Lewis has gone into hiding while his legal appeals are heard. If the deportation goes ahead it will be another dent in Mangope's previously liberal image.

The logic of Mangope's position is to dislodge the coming negotiations on the grounds that he wishes Bop to retain its independence, but this would be a blind alley given his utter dependence on the SADF. Dispensing with the SADF, however, means risking another coup, perhaps by pro-ANC officers. So Mangope will probably conclude that he cannot afford to be left out of negotiations on South Africa's future. And what is true for him will, inevitably, be true for all the smaller homeland leaders too.

The more one thinks about it, the more one realizes that the negotiations in prospect will be, no simple two-party matter but, a great babble of language groups, parties, autonomous territories, and even "independent" states — a miniature Versailles Conference in Africa.

R.W. Johnson is author of *How Long Will South Africa Survive?*

## Partnership for Britain's industrial future

Gordon Brown sets out Labour's plan to nurture the new technology

The industrial revolution took 100 years to spread from Britain to Germany and America, and beyond to Japan and the rest of the world. Now technological change takes months, not years, and the flow of inspiration is all the other way. Where once the steam engine, textiles and pig iron were the new industrial frontiers, today it is advanced micro-electronics, biotechnology, new plastics and even high-temperature ceramics.

In the coming decade even newer products and processes will burst upon the industrial scene, the latest innovations of the new industrial age, with change virtually instantaneous, and increasingly dependent on knowledge and skill.

One of the many tragedies of the Thatcher decade is that Britain is strangely absent among the world leaders in industries developing and applying these innovations. Why are we being left behind? Our managers are not incompetent. Our workforce is not lazy. Our scientists are not less intelligent; indeed, our inventiveness is

legendary. Yet in the 1980s Britain lost out in a wide range of products and processes — computer-designed machine tools, high-definition TV, reproducible manufacturing technology and information technology generally — leaving us stranded far down the world productivity league. As our trade figures demonstrate, the newest information technology industries are £2,000 million in the red.

With Britain's only major country to have spent a smaller share of national income on research in the 1980s as our competitors spent more, our innovation gap has grown to the point that one National Economic Development Council study placed Britain somewhere between developed and developing economies. Indeed a smaller share of national income is devoted to civil research and development than in many far poorer countries.

And it is not just in developing and applying new technology that we are falling behind. There

is all-party recognition now that we are also lagging in providing our workforce with the skills necessary for the new industrial age. The training gap between us and our competitors is now so wide that we are near the bottom of the European skills league.

Fewer young people stay on at school, or leave with qualifications, than in any comparable European country. Nor is there much evidence that under current policies we can catch up. Seventy-six per cent of Youth Training Scheme students gain no qualifications whatsoever. This year half our workers will enjoy no in-work training. One fact, more than any other, sums up our decline: more students attend college and university in South Korea than in Britain. Soon Taiwan will surpass us.

The remedy is increasingly clear to everyone except the Government. A long-term commitment to investment in technology and skills is urgently required. And that, in turn, demands a new, enabling

partnership between government and industry if we are not to be left even further behind in the run-up to 1992 and beyond.

The lesson from prosperous economies abroad is that markets on their own cannot put economies in shape for the new industrial age. They cannot ensure the education or the stable, supportive environment which industry needs. As Lord Toombs, the chairman of Rolls Royce and a past scientific adviser to the Prime Minister, recently remarked of training, "Normal market forces will not work to make up the severe shortfall or provide the skills base needed by modern industry and commerce."

Only in Britain is such a partnership viewed with suspicion. Elsewhere, government knows it has a vital role to play in partnership with industry — and not only in training. In Japan, the Key Technology Centre, the National Research and Development Centre and 25 other projects, as well as the

continuing role of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, are part of the government's drive to stimulate and apply new technologies. In West Germany, government-sponsored technology innovation centres are widespread, and a commitment to industrial policy an established part of the political consensus. Even in America there is a developing government-private sector partnership in the new technologies.

In these countries governments do not abandon their responsibility to industry but embrace them as a proper and important part of their duty. Yet just at the time when British industry is most in need of support, ministers are walking away. Acting out of an old-fashioned ideological obsession, Mrs Thatcher and Nicholas Ridley plan to carve up the Department of Trade and Industry, reducing the support available for research, innovation, exports, small business advice and regional enterprise, so depriving

our industry of the support that other governments offer.

In *Industry 2000*, to be published today, Labour is setting a new industrial agenda to ensure that Britain is able to compete effectively. It bridges the innovation and skills gap, government and all sectors of industry must work together. There must be strengthened research links between universities and industry, a network of technology transfer centres promoting the diffusion of new technology to small and medium-sized businesses, and, to match the need for continuous innovation, a commitment to continuous training for workers and management.

Today, with the opening of our most sustained dialogue with industry for many years, Labour takes its preparations for government one further step. The campaign is an important initiative for Labour, but even more important for the future of Britain, as we enter an industrial race we cannot afford to lose.

The author is Labour spokesman on trade and industry.

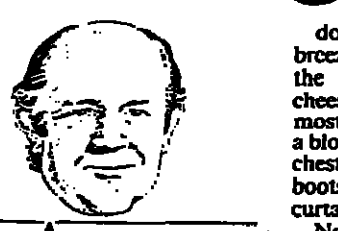
## A gift horse at the garden gate

from trees and site them civilly in gutters; a milk-float brakes, rattling, to allow a householder with a pint of gold-top to swap it for a pint of skimmed, and her echoing laugh panics the blackbirds under the privets; a window-cleaner, snapping his leather, struts his stuff with that special strut which speaks lecherous fiction, a sort of walking wink; a daily polishes a bell-push furiously; and "Volare" chimes and chimps. Milly-Molly-Mandy lives, and William Brown, and Mrs Dale.

And, after a bit, you hear a hoof, and the snort of a substantial nostril, and you go to your window for a shy suburban shuff

through your curtains, and riding by is what can only be called a constable. It is not fit, nor furr, nor the Old Bill; it is not a pig. It is *comes stabili*, the count of the stable. It is the apotheosis of suburban order.

It does not matter that the long felloch of the law is very possibly the least useful instrument in the maintenance of that order. Cricklewood neither goes in for riots, nor often requires a *cordon chevalier* for mounted royals. A number of cars get nicked, much graffiti is sprayed on walls, video-recorders visible through unlocked windows tend to change owners fairly crisply, but these are not situations for which a baton



ALAN COREN

charge is the textbook answer. True, domestic alarms go off with enough regularity to suggest that Cricklewood is in a permanent state of forced entry, but even if 99.7 per cent of these were not

down to iffy wiring, sudden breezes, and the cat getting up in the middle of the night for a cheese sandwich, the last thing most householders would want is a bloke galloping upstairs on a big chestnut gelding to check for boots sticking out from under the curtains.

No, the mounted policeman is not about the practical application of the law, he is principally there, at least from the consumer's point of view, in order to suggest that he does not need to be there at all. Here is Cricklewood, his immaculately curried horse announces, here is Cricklewood, his shimmering accoutrements confirm, where life is so

lawful and so ordered that all that is called for is ceremonial patrol. He is not so much for the suburb, as of it.

And what could bond him more tightly to this emollient suburban scenario than this morning's incident?

A couple of hours ago, I was shoulder-deep in the gully beside my garage, happily reaming a drain, when the horse came by. I stood up, because ceremony should be a two-way trade, and bade good morning to the constable. He reined in.

"Looks like we've seen the back of the rain," he said.

"And the wind's dropped," I pointed out, expertly.

The horse lifted its tail. "Well, must get on," said the constable, after a bit.

To his credit, he did not refer to what had happened astern. He simply touched his peak, and I nodded, because that is all that Cricklewood protocols required. After he had gone, I went into the garage to get a shovel. The last time I did that was 40 years ago. You got three years for it, then, from Mr Creswell at Number 7. I have my own roses, now.

When I came out of the garage, a neighbour was standing by the gift, with her own shovel. "Ah," she said.

"No, no," I said. "We'll go halves."

Suburbia could offer no more quintessential moment. As I stooped, a burglar alarm went off, somewhere; but the horse, at the corner now, did not even break into a trot.





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## TO THE AID OF THE PARTY

President Gorbachov's speech to the "crisis" plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party yesterday represents his boldest attempt yet at political reform. He laid the ground for the abandonment of the party's constitutional monopoly as the "leading and guiding force" in the "struggle for the victory of communism", and the creation, at some future and carefully unspecified date, of other political parties.

Mr Gorbachov told the party faithful that the search for the "humane, democratic socialism" to which he has nailed his colours would in future have to be conducted through "co-operation with other public-political forces". In a proposal which echoes the formula followed by Poland last year, he mooted the idea of a round-table meeting between the party and those of the multiple unofficial movements which "base themselves on the Soviet Constitution and social system".

That thoroughly ambiguous formula may have been designed to allay suspicions that the talks would be a prelude to total surrender by the party. It could equally be attributable to Mr Gorbachov's own ambivalence about the political forces at work in the Soviet Union.

If he succeeds in obtaining endorsement of his proposals today, he will have scored his most significant victory yet over the party's conservatives. He may also have started the party on the road to a dignified demise, and launched the Soviet Union towards genuine democracy.

The speech should not, however, be read as a political conversion. Mr Gorbachov has not so much embraced a multi-party system as acknowledged that in the real politics of the Soviet Union it has already arrived. There is no reason to doubt his determination that the party should retain its "vanguard role": his goal is to equip it, as he said, "to fight for the position of ruling party". But he has recognized that it will be completely discredited if it seeks to cling to power by exploiting its legal monopoly. His message to the *Nomenklatura* was, in essence, that to suppress the tide of pluralism would be to sign the party's death warrant. To the conservatives in his audience, his proposals will have sounded like an invitation to commit suicide.

Mr Gorbachov's plans for reform of the party itself are, in their own terms, far-reaching. Exhorting the *Nomenklatura* to rid the party of Stalinism, he gave his meaning point by calling for a review of the hitherto sacrosanct principle of "democratic centralism", the key to the leadership's control of its hierarchy.

Reforms would, in theory, give grass-roots members democratic control over party officials. In an effort to harness the upsurge of nationalism, the plan tentatively projects a federal party structure based on the union's 15 republics. He has proposed that the party's new platform, while still clinging to the half-way house of a "planned market economy" should include such heresies as private property rights.

Soviet voters will have their first chance to say whether he has gone far enough in the local government elections later this month. The electorate discovered last year the power of spoilt ballots to humiliate party candidates, and may well make clear to Mr Gorbachov — and to the party hardliners — what would be the party's likely fate in a free vote. So great has been the party's loss of political authority that only committed pluralists and those communists who, as in the Baltic states, have embraced nationalist causes can hope to emerge unscathed.

That, even if Mr Gorbachov wins the arguments today, will complicate his task at the party Congress which must endorse his new platform, and which he has proposed should be brought forward from October to mid-summer. By the time it meets, the party is likely to be even more deeply polarized by electoral defeats than it is today.

The question then may be whether yesterday's proposals are adequate to secure the party's survival — which would appear still to be Mr Gorbachov's goal. He claimed yesterday that political reforms which had strengthened the Government *vis-à-vis* the party had fostered "a growth in political pluralism". By this summer, the wheel will have turned again. Mr Gorbachov may then need to claim his mandate not as head of the party, but as head of the Government which has made that possible.

## A GREATER EVIL

The *Satanic Verses* affair has been vigorously exploited by factions within the British Muslim community seeking leadership and dominance, sometimes for themselves, sometimes (which is more sinister) on behalf of foreign paymasters. These agitators have succeeded in creating a climate in which many balanced and intelligent leaders of the Muslim community have been unwilling to give the moderate leadership that is desperately needed. They fear that they will be branded by those extremists as indifferent to a slight to the honour of the Prophet Muhammad, and therefore not sufficiently loyal to the Muslim faith.

Their position has been made more difficult by the reluctance of the authorities to use the criminal law to stamp out the constant repetition by fanatics in Britain of the late Ayatollah Khomeini's evil exhortation to Muslims to kill Mr Salman Rushdie for heresy and blasphemy. It has come as an unwelcome surprise to the British to discover that parading with a poster bearing the words "Kill Rushdie" is not being regarded as a serious criminal offence. It probably comes as no less a surprise to the man actually holding it aloft.

There certainly should be such a law; and it should be widely framed and vigorously enforced. The abandonment by the Director of Public Prosecutions of one possible prosecution last week "for lack of evidence" should signal to the Government that this is an area of law needing to be stiffened immediately. Meanwhile any Muslim troublemaker without full British citizenship should be expelled from the country. Moderate Muslims will appreciate that it is quite inconsistent of their community to press, say, for an extension of the blasphemy law to protect their particular sensitivities, when the sensitivities of the great majority of the population are regularly outraged by a vociferous campaign of incitement to murder. The public will inevitably regard this

campaign, mounted in the name of religion, as the far greater blasphemy. In this climate, the proposal by some Muslim extremists that the "death penalty" against Mr Rushdie might be lifted or amended, provided he or others made one or more of a number of concessions, must be firmly resisted.

Otherwise it will seem that their threats of violence have been successful, to the profit of those propagating extremism who are angling for power and influence. Although they obviously care nothing for good community relations, and regard the bulk of Muslims in Britain as mere ideological fodder, they would be able to present themselves as the only true protectors of Muslim interests in Britain. Moderate Muslim leaders must be prepared to step forward and declare that such tactics, far from producing useful results, are doing great harm to Muslim interests.

Already *The Satanic Verses* affair has caused serious damage to community relations in Britain. No group has more to lose from this than the immigrant Muslim community which came to Britain from the Indian subcontinent. Before the Ayatollah injected his poison into their relationship with the majority, they wanted nothing more than quiet acceptance and the right to build themselves a decent British life.

The Muslim community in Britain is far from monolithic. It is still struggling towards a common identity, a common definition of what it means to be British by citizenship, Islamic by faith. It has been tempted from that difficult but necessary journey by mischief makers peddling a dishonest short cut which can lead only to disaster. The duty of moderate Muslim leaders, as the first anniversary of Khomeini's infamous *fatwah* approaches, is to say so boldly, for the good of their community and of their faith.

## A MURDEROUS ACT

If those who carried out the murderous attack on a coachload of Israeli tourists in Egypt intended to block progress towards an Arab-Israeli settlement, they may take a shameful pride in their achievement. As an act of terrorism it was singularly well timed, and it has dealt the peace process a damaging blow. Its immediate effect has been the postponement *sine die* of tomorrow's meeting of Israel's Likud party central committee. This in turn probably rules out the Israeli-Egyptian-US foreign ministers' meeting which was planned for next week in Geneva.

Tomorrow's Likud meeting had always looked a formidable hurdle in the peace process. Mr Yitzhak Shamir would have faced opposition from right-wingers to his plans for elections on the West Bank and in Gaza. The hawkish Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's industry minister, was preparing to lead an attack on Israel's peace plan. He and his supporters have accused the coalition Government of drifting (under pressure from the Palestine Liberation Organization) towards the eventual establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which would threaten Israeli security from within.

The attack can only have strengthened Mr Sharon's hand. Mr Shamir had already threatened to resign if he failed to win his party's support tomorrow — which suggests that he was by no means confident of doing so. Several days after the atrocity in Egypt, he would hardly have had much chance of winning the argument. From his point of view it is better to live and fight another day.

When that day might come remains unclear. President Mubarak of Egypt telephoned Mr Shamir after the attack (ironically the first time

they have spoken in nine years) to express his hopes that the peace process might continue. To this Mr Shamir replied that there could be no Arab-Israeli peace until all terrorism has been ended. Given the ease with which such acts are perpetrated this is almost to say never.

The bitterness throughout Israel is understandable, but to throw the blame upon Egypt would be unfair. Tens of thousands of Israeli tourists have visited Egypt since the Camp David peace accord 11 years ago. The only notable previous attack was that in the Sinai peninsula five years ago when seven were killed by a mentally deranged police corporal. The deaths of two Egyptian security men this time suggest that security precautions had been taken.

The attack partly reflects the Islamic fundamentalist problem faced by President Mubarak. Responsibility has been claimed by the Organization of the Oppressed in Egyptian Prisons. As most political prisoners in Egypt are fundamentalists, there is a clear connection. The ambush was carefully planned, which suggests that the choice of target was significant. It was Egypt's 11-year relationship with Jerusalem and President Mubarak's chosen role as a peacemaker which inspired the attack on the Cairo-Ismailiya road.

Last summer's attack on a Jerusalem-Tel Aviv bus, in which 16 Israelis died, hardened attitudes throughout Israel, swinging political opinion towards the right. This latest terrorist act is bound to have a similar effect. If movement towards a settlement is to start again, those Palestinians who genuinely seek an honest peace might need to show a sense of statesmanship.

## Press Council's financial plight

From the Chairman and the Director of the Press Council  
Sir, Your report today (February 5) of the financial difficulties facing the Press Council must be viewed against the background of general funding of this self-regulatory body by its constituent bodies from the newspaper industry over a number of years.

Since its foundation the industry has deliberately run the Press Council as a tight ship. For reasons which made economic sense to the industry in the past, the Press Council's funding has been on a year-by-year basis, purposely prohibiting the build-up of surpluses or reserves to meet contingencies like those identified in your report.

The past decade has not witnessed the kind of growth in the council's activities envisaged by the last Royal Commission on the Press. This has been due largely to continuous under-funding of the council — a fact now acknowledged by some of its constituent bodies.

The comparatively minor cost to the newspaper industry has increased from around £200,000 at the beginning of the last decade to about £600,000 at its end. But over the same 10 years the Press Council's workload in complaints almost trebled, leaving in its costs no allowance for the fall in the value of money over that span. Still less does it allow for the other developments in the service of the council to the public and the press which the royal commission envisaged and the council is undertaking.

A further marked rise in the number of complaints for 1989 adds point to the need for the industry to fund adequately the body vital to its effective self-regulation.  
Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS BLOOM-COOPER,  
Chairman,  
KENNETH MORGAN, Director,  
The Press Council,  
1 Salisbury Square, EC4,  
February 5.

## Coping with storms

From Viscount Ridley  
Sir, When Hurricane Hugo hit the United States coast in September, 1989, the National Guard was immediately mobilised to help with the disaster and, I believe some 4,000 men in the Carolinas alone were called out. Yet when gales hit Britain we seem unable to use our reserve forces this way. I suggest that the time has come to include them in our emergency planning. It was a great disappointment that the Home Secretary's recent statement on the subject made no mention of either regular or reserve forces.

They have the necessary skills and can produce medical and catering equipment, clothing, communications, earth-moving and cross-country vehicles at short notice. They are housed in TA centres which are spread evenly throughout the country, in many cases being the only servicemen in the area at all, and they would know their home areas far better than strangers.

If the object of all emergency planning is to minimise loss of life, injury and damage to property, then we are neglecting to use the most valuable of all our resources and the more resourceful of all our volunteers.

Yours faithfully,  
RIDLEY,  
House of Lords,  
January 31.

From Mr D. F. Hoyes  
Sir, In the Caribbean and USA approaching storms are monitored as soon as they form off the African coast. Wind speeds — in an easily understandable language, like miles per hour — and the size, direction, and forward speed are constantly monitored and the details relayed to the public.

People living in these areas are properly informed about what to expect and are advised what precautions to take to protect property and life. They do not venture out in hurricane-force winds.

During last week's storm I was amazed how people went about their normal daily activities. No wonder nearly 50 people were killed.  
Yours faithfully,  
D. F. HOYES,  
Oakview, Hamble Lane,  
Bursledon,  
Southampton, Hampshire,  
January 27.

## Women and work

From the Director of the Careers National Association

Sir, It is very welcome news (report, January 25) that companies are to be urged to make time for career breaks for women and that they are to be encouraged to return to work after they have had children. However, the Institute of Manpower Studies and the Department of Employment have a habit of overlooking a rather uncomfortable fact when they talk about seeking an extra 1.5 million workers of whom 83 per cent will be women.

Far more women are caring at home for an elderly or disabled relative than are caring for under-fives. Indeed, our whole system of so-called "community care" is predicated on there being large

## Lay majority on law committee

From Professor P. B. H. Birks, FBA

Sir, In one important respect the proposed composition of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal education and conduct is more bizarre than your report of the debate in the House of Lords conveys (Parliament, January 26).

The Bill tells the Lord Chancellor what backgrounds the eight non-lawyer members should have — experience of commercial affairs, consumer affairs, provision of legal services, and so on. Education does not figure. Then, if we turn to the six lawyer members, the Bill finds room for only two from the academic branch of the profession.

In the result a committee which, including the judge who will take the chair, will number 15 and which is to be charged with "maintenance and development of standards in the education, training and conduct of those offering legal services" will be expected to function with almost no shared experience of education in general or of legal education in particular.

Academic lawyers have by and

large welcomed the Lord Chancellor's reforms; but in responses to the Green Paper the Society of Public Teachers of Law, the Association of Law Teachers, the Committee of the Heads of University Law Schools and the advisory committee as at present constituted all drew attention to the irrationality of setting up an education committee with no expertise in education. The White Paper included some albeit inadequate recognition of the strength of this argument. But nothing was carried through to the Bill.

If the new advisory committee is to do its work competently, the Bill must be amended so as, at the very least, to impose on the committee a statutory obligation to consult the bodies which represent those engaged in legal education or, better, to oblige it to consult a statutory standing sub-committee drawn from those bodies.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER BIRKS  
(Honorary Secretary,  
The Society of Public Teachers of Law),  
All Souls College, Oxford,  
January 26.

## Detention of suspects

From Sir William Goodhart, QC  
Sir, Fourteen months ago the European Court of Human Rights declared that the detention of Terence Morgan and other suspects under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for periods exceeding four days was a breach of article 5 (3) of the European Convention on Human Rights (report, November 30, 1988). This article requires that suspects "shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power".

The court held that in the cases under review (the shortest period of detention being four days and six hours) this requirement had not been satisfied. The UK Government then claimed to exercise its right under article 15 of the Convention to derogate from article 5 (3).

Article 15 provides that in time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation any High Contracting Party

may take measures derogating from its obligations under this Convention to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation.

The activities of the terrorist organisations have caused immense distress to many individuals, but in the view of Justice these cannot be described as threatening the life of the nation in any sense which would justify this derogation. It is apparent from the Home Secretary's recent answer to a written question from Mr Ivan Lawrence, QC, that the derogation is to become permanent.

Recent events have highlighted the importance of the full observance of human rights norms in the investigation of terrorist offences. This principle should clearly extend to detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM GOODHART  
(Chairman,  
Executive Committee),  
Justice,  
95a Chancery Lane, WC2,  
January 26.

## Private treatment

From Mr A. R. L. May

Sir, Mr Campbell-Savours is quite correct when he says (report, January 23) that consultants might treat some patients privately whom they are "unwilling" to treat under the NHS. However, this has nothing to do with clandestine juggling of waiting lists, as I am sure he is inferring, but because we have no alternative.

Increasingly, with cash limitations in the NHS and health authorities being required to balance budgets, consultants are being asked to define clinical priorities for treatment within their specialties. In effect, this means that where resources and beds are limited certain categories of condition have to be identified and given low priority; in some instances they may stay indefinitely on waiting lists.

It is understandable that Gov-

ernment and, to a certain extent local management, would wish to leave these decisions to clinicians: it would obviously be politically damaging to have to admit publicly that certain conditions will not have treatment under the NHS. However, this in reality is what cash limitation and resource management means.

Several patients who have waited for a long time for surgery have told me that, had they known originally that there was no prospect of treatment under the NHS, they could have made plans for treatment in the private sector much sooner. Mr Campbell-Savours should not give the impression that long waiting lists are a deliberate invention of consultants.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW MAY  
(Consultant surgeon),  
Colchester General Hospital,  
Turner Road,  
Colchester, Essex.

## Pension costs

From Mr Alan Smallbone

Sir, In his article of January 18, John Banham asserts that pay must reflect performance but CBI cannot believe that other expenses of employing people can be ignored. What about pensions?

True funding rates for "final" pay schemes are very progressive, even if wages remain static. There is no possibility that a typist, or sales manager for that matter, of 49 can so exceed the productivity of a 39-year-old as to justify the hidden pension cost.

Yet CBI vigorously recom-

mends these schemes to employ-

ers, although aware — as typists

are most unlikely to be — that just as later years of service become very expensive, the earlier years are very cheap for employers, and that it is not difficult, as a policy, to unload ageing staff at all levels.

It may be unwise of workers to press for increases but if their instincts tell them that those who deplore their short-sightedness may be much more interested in preserving dividends than jobs, it is difficult to doubt that their instincts are sound.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ALAN SMALLBONE,  
Members' Writing Room,  
Lloyd's of London,  
1 Lime Street, EC3.

## In praise of Pitt

From Mr S. D'O. Duckworth

Sir, Last any of your readers should feel William Pitt the Younger is remembered solely at occasional club dinners (letter, January 30), I beg to inform them that the University Pitt Club continues to exist on a daily basis, as it has done since 1835.

The most important of our 18 regular toasts is drunk in silence to the Immortal and Pious Memory of William Pitt. I can only assume that such God-fearing sentiments have left their mark, albeit balanced by those left by occasional, and understandably consequent, inebriety.

Yours faithfully,  
S. D'O. DUCKWORTH  
(Honorary Secretary),  
University Pitt Club,  
Jesus Lane, Cambridge.

ees, although aware — as typists are most unlikely to be — that just as later years of service become very expensive, the earlier years are very cheap for employers, and that it is not difficult, as a policy, to unload ageing staff at all levels.

It may be unwise of workers to press for increases but if their instincts tell them that those who deplore their short-sightedness may be much more interested in preserving dividends than jobs, it is difficult to doubt that their instincts are sound.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ALAN SMALLBONE,  
Members' Writing Room,  
Lloyd's of London,  
1 Lime Street, EC3.

## Extended links

From Mr Peyton Skipwith

Sir, Probably like a number of your other readers I reacted with surprise, and even slight irritation, to a recent circular from British Telecom concerning the new London coding, which began "Dear Colleague".

Despite not regarding British Telecom's Director Operations, London and South East as a colleague, I was somewhat mollified when I checked a note in our board minutes for January 10, 1983, which reads "Telephone: It was arranged to join".

Perhaps after such a long association a little familiarity on the part of BT was excusable after all. Yours faithfully,  
PEYTON SKIPWITH (Director),  
The Fine Art Society,  
148 New Bond Street, W1.

From Dr Carol Cooper  
Sir, Despite Mr K. H. D. Renton's impression (January 22), employment for married women is not a luxury comparable to that of having a housekeeper or gardener.

The fact is that many women feel obliged (morally or financially) to work, despite the demands of family life. More would be encouraged to use their skills if the cost of child care were allowed against tax.

Childminders and nannies cannot be equated with housekeepers and gardeners. I have not seen Mr Renton's garden. It may well be lovely, but I need to work, and perhaps he does not need a garden.

Yours faithfully,  
CAROL COOPER,  
40 Roxborough Park,  
Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex,  
January 22.

## Development of rural Harrow

From the President of Save Britain's Heritage and others

Sir, We are appalled at the threatened vandalism imminently to be visited on its own surroundings by Harrow School. This would ruin Harrow-on-the-Hill and a rare village oasis in a sea of suburbia. Persistent care and conservation codes so strict that local residents can scarcely change a door knob without express permission have preserved here a character and charm unique in Greater London. Yet the school's governors plan to erect a 480-seat theatre on the open slope beneath the parish church.

To finance this dubious amenity, the school would put up 21 neo-arts and crafts cum post-Modern three and four-storey houses near by on the present site of six cottages and large gardens. The theatre will encroach on and seriously detract from the celebrated view of the church spire. The new houses will devastate the rural approach to the village from the fields. Access roads and parking will destroy the sense of open space and freedom from traffic and rip asunder the fabric of the historic village centre.

Though decisively rejected by all parties in the local council, the school's application for planning permission was none the less allowed on appeal, on grounds of housing need.

Britain's great public schools have public environmental responsibilities as well as educational legacies. To scuttle the first is to scuttle the second. Harrow School's 9th-century buildings know how to measure the worth of a millennium of village life and landscape. Today's governors would enhance their reputations for stewardship if they recalled the school's role as a custodian of national values. Otherwise they will become notorious for generations to come as the philistine betrayers of a cherished heritage. Yours faithfully,  
MARCUS BINNEY, President,  
Save Britain's Heritage,  
BARRY CUNLIFFE,  
PETER FOWLER,  
JAMES LEES-MILNE,  
GAVIN STAMP,  
JOHN SUMMERSON,  
Save Britain's Heritage,  
68 Battersea High Street, SW11,  
February 5.

## Passport forms

From Dr Nicola Clark and Dr Alfred Clark

Sir, The application forms for a United Kingdom passport require confirmation of identity by a member of Parliament, justice of the peace, minister of religion, a professionally qualified person (for example, doctor, engineer, lawyer, teacher), bank officer, established Civil Servant, police officer, or a person of similar standing who has known you personally for at least two years.

Does this requirement assume that individuals who fall outside the named categories would be any less qualified to confirm an applicant's identity?

In the absence of evidence supporting such an assumption, an alternative and more appropriate procedure for a democratic society would be to allow any person with a voting entitlement to confirm an applicant's identity. Yours faithfully,  
NICI CLARK,  
A. W. CLARK,  
20 Highfield Avenue,  
Cambridge,  
January 24.

## Meter reading

From Mr J. P. Chambers

Sir, Mr Banks (January 26) describes the meter-reading appointments problem. Last year British Gas advertised widely for public comment on their service. I wrote proposing that they establish a panel of suitably-qualified volunteers, such as chartered engineers, who would be available locally to make a valid meter reading at any mutually convenient time on request as a public service. They could be given any necessary training and they would assume responsibility for the correctness of the reading.

The telephoned reply to my suggestion was that only a member of British Gas staff was competent to read a meter.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. CHAMBERS,  
24 Green Lane,  
Tadworth, Surrey,  
January 29.

## Mind over matter

From the Reverend Canon D. M. Stanesby

Sir, The claim (report, January 25) by the one-time Provost of Eton that he solved *The Times* crossword puzzle in the time it took to boil his breakfast egg will doubtless prompt further unlikely stories. Here is one.

The late Monsignor Ronnie Knox was looking at the celebrated crossword puzzle on a train journey when, after a few minutes, the lady sitting next to him enquired if he would like a pencil. "No thank you madam", he replied, "I have finished it".

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK STANESBY,  
4 The Cloisters,  
Windsor Castle, Berkshire,  
January 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5946.











SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## THE ARTS

## Queue for a song of freedom?

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

It may be some indication of how fast things are moving in the Soviet Union that this week's *Panorama*, only finally assembled and edited on Sunday evening, should already have been overtaken by events before it could be screened on BBC 1 last night.

Jenny Claydon's powerful documentary did, however, forecast, admittedly in *Leningrad*, precisely the massive street demonstration which happened in Moscow 36 hours ago as a demand for an end to the Communist Party's 70-year stranglehold on the Soviet system.

Lyrically shot on film rather than videotape, so that whole sequences looked as though they had come straight out of Sir David Lean's *Dr Zhivago*, "The Winter of Perestroika" was concerned with the population's mood in Leningrad itself. While some of its citizens are already demanding a return to the Czarist regime of St Petersburg, others are forecasting an abrupt end to the Gorbachev drama of change. The severest food shortage since the great wartime siege has led to hour-long queues in below-freezing temperatures and a general feeling that if this is perestroika, then at least Stalin made the trains run on time.

Railway equipment is still a hundred years out of date, however, hospitals are desperate for medical supplies, food wagons are being looted for anything that has not already rotted away, and the city has a crime rate 22 per cent up on last year. The case for the prosecution is that the Gorbachev reforms have brought nothing but chaos and corruption, and that the sooner a return to the old communist order is re-established, the better for all.

The case for Gorbachev is of course that reform takes time, that many of Leningrad's problems are those of its own history, and essentially that you cannot make new cimetaries without breaking a few old eggs.

But with local elections coming up next month, and both sides now getting more violent, the chances are that further reforms are likely before any calm. *Panorama* found signs of rampant anti-Semitism among Leningrad's writers, and of a people frantic to rediscover themselves but uncertain how to do it. Greater freedom of expression has brought greater frustration: police are again breaking up public meetings, and a half-hearted move towards a market economy has simply created a greater shambles all round. Even a civil war could now be in prospect as the old guard rallies for a final stand in defence of the basic Communist ideals. The irony is that in order to save his perestroika, Gorbachev may have to dismantle his own party.

Neil Bartlett, latest and most colourful of the fringe theatre figures at the National Theatre, talks to Jim Hiley

## Love, sex and argument

Much of the current repertoire of the Royal National Theatre has been entrusted to young talents previously associated with studio experiments and the radical "fringe". Deborah Warner and Declan Donnellan have been given productions in the Olivier, while *Tartuffe* will be staged in the Cottesloe shortly by Jaiinder Verma, from the Asian company, Tara Arts.

What is happening in the auditoria of the National reflects a wider trend. Barriers between "mainstream" and "fringe" are now so frequently broken that the nomenclature may have outlived its usefulness. The theatre is undergoing its own kind of perestroika.

These changes are epitomized by the prolific schedule of Neil Bartlett - performer, writer, director, gay activist... and the National's latest recruit. February evenings will find him at the tiny Drill Hall Arts Centre, giving a fourth outing to *A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep*. In his acclaimed "hymn" to Simeon Solomon, the Victorian painter and poet, Bartlett appears stark naked alongside three pre-Raphaelite "drag queens". During the day, meanwhile, he will be busy at the National, helping prepare his translation of Racine's *Berenice* for an opening in May.

The following month, Bartlett co-directs his own version of Molière's *School for Wives* at the Derby Playhouse, a once-staid "rep" whose present vitality owes much to the Edinburgh Fringe, along with an updating of Balzac's short story, *Sarrasine*.

Bartlett is an exuberant individualist who has become a figurehead on drama's further shores, not least for his bold revampings of the classics. He says that the mainstream is now keen to "adapt the language" of experimental theatre and performance art. At

the same time, he and his kindred spirits are no longer content to be "ghettoized" in small spaces. "I wish the Drill Hall had 800 seats," he sighs.

But if Bartlett is to find a permanent niche in the Establishment, the process may not be comfortable. His style is a disconcerting mix of the plush and the confrontational, underpinned by indignation at society's treatment of homosexuals.

His output could never be categorized as "political theatre", and he shuns the dour minimalism associated with that genre. His productions are lavishly designed, and strong on old-fashioned razzamatazz. "My shows are dominated by sardor and gold - the colours of love, sex, anger and argument. Even when they're not erotic, they are always sensual."

Now 31, he was brought up in Chichester. On visits to the Festival Theatre, he felt inspired by the plays but disliked the milieu. "I came to see it as a massive communal rite of self-congratulation." He took a First in English at Magdalen College, Oxford, where his student ventures included a high-camp "savage" in Oscar Wilde's old rooms. Then, a trainee directorship at the Bristol Old Vic only confirmed his mistrust of conventional theatre.

"At Bristol, people would talk obsessively about what Juliet's nurse really feels. But this vocabulary of 'truth' in performance conceals the important decisions. They are the way the director casts his production and the relationship he strikes up with the actors. The actor is merely the employee of the director and, in a sense, of the text. I suspect large numbers of actors are saying - 'I'm not really doing this - it's somebody else's responsibility.' This performer should be saying 'This is me. I'm responsible.'"

For Neil Bartlett, theatre is not an interpretative art. He sees each

project as the making of a distinctive statement through a collaboration of equals. From his audiences, he hopes for an unprejudiced response, and he is ready to provoke them into a suitably alert frame of mind. Pre-eminent among his techniques is "gender role reversal". The best way to get an audience to think afresh about Cleopatra, he says, is for her to be played by a man. But Bartlett is no sensationalist. His approach is scholarly and even earnest, though he tends to keep quiet about his Oxford background.

For *A Vision of Love*, he has enlisted Regina Fong, a luminary of London's "drag" pub circuit, and "Bette" Bourne, from the cult group, Bloolips. Along with the show's designer, Robin Whitmore, they provide a transvestite chorus for Bartlett's musings on the fate of Simeon Solomon.

Solomon fell from minor celebrity to disgrace after he was arrested with another man on an impropriety charge in 1873. What impresses Bartlett is that he refused to seek rehabilitation by apologizing for his sexuality. Instead, Solomon died the archetypal outsider - Jewish, gay, and alcoholic to boot.

The costuming of the "queens", like Bartlett's nakedness, reflects the imagery of Solomon's work. But *A Vision of Love* is more than a painterly evocation. Bartlett sees in Solomon an example of the defiance needed by gay men today as they face up to Aids.

"Personal courage is the first and only thing that will get us through. The show is my way of being encouraging, inspiring. But it is not a sermon, or for one kind of audience." The combination of aesthetics and "drag" reflects Bartlett's twin preoccupation with "high art and popular culture, which come together in their desperation to avoid the middlebrow."



Neil Bartlett as Simeon Solomon in *A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep*

Part of the attraction of *School for Wives* is Molière's stylistic blending of "grandeur and low comedy". Bartlett's *Sarrasine* will be dominated by the crowning figure of La Zambinella, an erstwhile diva and courtesan, who turns out to be a castrato, once the kept boy of a Vatican cardinal. "The castrato's voice represents inviolable purity. At the same time, a 15-year-old kept homosexual is a symbol of ultimate depravity." What excites him, he

explains, is the meeting of the two in one character.

But he agrees that there are no such ambiguities about *Berenice* - "it's the highest of high art" - and his translation will scrupulously avoid modern jargon or references. Even so, he sees contemporary relevance in the text.

"It's the enactment of a lingering, inevitable farewell. If you just shift it sideways, it's an Aids play, too."

## Eric, friends and the strange alchemy of the 12-bar

Now that Eric Clapton has become such a pillar of the mainstream musical establishment, it is easy to forget the depth and passion of his love affair with the blues. He has wandered far off the mark since his epoch-making contribution to John Mayall's album *Bluesbreakers with Eric Clapton* sparked off the blues boom of the Sixties and introduced a new level of instrumental expertise to rock. Yet, as he demonstrated on the first of three blues nights, he retains a staggering technical and intuitive mastery of the strange alchemy that can transform a three-chord, 12-bar sequence into something akin to the Holy Grail of rock.

There was a tremendous sense

of occasion as he led on his specially convened band, comprising Chuck Berry's veteran pianist Johnnie Johnson, Robert Cray's bassist Richard Cousins and drummer Jamie Oldaker. Dressed in an outsize black suit and sporting the usual floppy bouffant, Clapton ambled up to the microphone to get the singing of "Key to the Highway" out of the way before taking up his favourite position at centre stage, and casually loosing off a high, keening solo in that glorious creamy tone that is his trademark.

"All Your Love", a little-remembered item from the *Bluesbreakers* album, was given a "Black Magic Woman" rumba treatment, and despite its light gait Clapton

ROCK  
David Sinclair

Eric Clapton, Robert Cray, Buddy Guy  
Albert Hall

hailed out a spine-tingling vibrato on the song's main instrumental motif. The dead-slow "Have you Ever Loved a Woman" provided a classic showcase for Clapton's extraordinary use of the blues syntax - a solo comprised of rapid jabbering sequences of notes that washed in fluent rushes across the rhythm, like seawater sluicing across stones on a beach.

Clapton's two guest musicians represented the links to either side of him in the evolutionary chain of the blues. Eighties prodigy Robert Cray and Chicago veteran Buddy Guy. Clapton was unstintingly generous to both musicians, leaving them to take control of the latter half of the show while he performed in a supporting role.

Cray seemed uncomfortable, very much the player at an away fixture, and may well have been unsettled by some boorish calls from the crowd for "More Eric" during his set. His choice of material did not show off his range to its best effect.

Guy, a more outgoing performer, was all over the shop, blasting out an unreservedly

populist selection ranging from "Money" to "Sweet Home Chicago" and a bizarre, impromptu jam of "Hoochie Coochie Man".

It was hardly as if Clapton needed to subject himself to such daunting competition, and yet it was noticeable how effortlessly he dominated the proceedings with solos that were always that touch more incisive, coherent and affecting than those of his partners, and a presence that was at all times commanding. It was a long, under-rehearsed show that sagged at times, a genteel celebration that suffered, on balance, from too many slow songs. But not for one moment did Clapton sell himself or his remarkably enduring artistry short.



Giles Havergal: sinister and raffish in Armani as Barone Tito Belcredi

## Desolate in high style

THEATRE  
Alasdair Cameron

Enrico IV  
Citizens', Glasgow

In most productions of Pirandello, the intricate intellectual games he plays with the audience, over the nature of illusion and reality and madness real and feigned, have all the drama of an undergraduate philosophical seminar. Fortunately, the new production of *Enrico IV*, which launches the Citizens' 1990 season, looks so stylish and is so unashamedly theatrical that its debates seem irresistible.

*Enrico IV* opens with a group of Italian aristocrats visiting the villa of a friend who for 20 years has supposedly suffered from the delusion of being the eleventh-century emperor, Henry IV. His madness was caused by falling from a horse while dressed as the emperor for a pageant. But as the play progresses it becomes clear that the fall was engineered by these friends who now come to gloat. *Enrico IV* is suffused with cynicism and pessimism, and this sense of desolation, resting even with director/designer Philip Prowse injecting as much humour as possible into the play.

Prowse has set *Enrico IV* in an airy, black, vaguely neo-classical room with black shutters which open out on to a cool white windowless loggia. In a breathtaking *coup de théâtre*, this is transformed into an incense-filled Gothic chapel ablaze with candles, 100 red altar lamps hanging from gold chains and red, purple, and gold confetti raining down from the fly-tower.

The actors, too, look wonderful. Jill Spence dominates much of the first half, like a Visconti original with Titian red hair and a thousand affections, playing the Marchesa as a woman for whom life's greatest disaster would be the loss of her powder compact. Giles Havergal and Ellen Sheehan provide sharp character studies as a sinister, raffish, Armani-clad Barone and a misguided psychiatrist. In the title role, Greg Hicks gives a virtuoso performance, using verbal gymnastics and precise mood shifts to play with his audience on and off stage. Hicks is particularly poignant when he finally admits to his minders, as the room darkens, that he was cured long ago and has sought refuge in sham lunacy ever since.

This production was eagerly awaited not least because of the publicity successions, Richard Harris's last-minute withdrawal from the title role. Without his star presence, alas, the promised London transfer of the play will not now happen. This is London's loss.

The most exciting feature of London Baroque's Bach programme was Lars Ulrik Mortensen's playing of the harpsichord part in Bach's Fifth Brandenburg Concerto. True, he encouraged his colleagues to set out at an unsustainable pace in the first movement (and when it came to his more elaborate solo passages he certainly changed down a gear). But it was not all exhibitionism. In the slow movement he achieved a similar spontaneity, providing solid rhythmic roots over which the flautist Stephen Preston and the violinist Ingrid Seifert could make their own sweetly understated contributions.

He fits well into a unified team whose only real fault is, at times, that same desire to drive the faster music too neurotically. It happened again in a number of movements of the B minor Suite - even the slow section of

## Fun with monkeys

Jeremy Kingston

Sea Monkeys  
Crucible Studio,  
Sheffield

An advert reproduced in the programme for David Pumphord's slyly crafted play suggests that sea monkeys are the aquatic equivalent of jumping beans. Drop them into water and then "laugh and thrill to the antics of your tumbling, playful, happy troupe". An accompanying drawing shows gibbon-like creatures waving happily from inside a glass tank.

Whatever they really look like, it is certainly not monkeys, but the supremely credulous Nick, one of Pumphord's two prisoners on the run, is dismayed to hear it, never having learnt to take appearances with a pinch of salt. His rapturous description of the Wicked Witch of the East's entourage is halted by an irritated rebuke from O'Connor, Nick's older, cynical and more dangerous companion: "You are the only person I have ever met who has taken *The Wizard of Oz* as a documentary."

We are evidently meant to consider this trapped pair of oddballs to be sea monkeys, and not just because Pumphord has dropped them in front of us to bring thrills and laughter. As the

setting is the empty gym of a school closed over Christmas, there are hanging rings for Nick to crawl on, and the rear wall of Mark Bailey's spare and skeletal set is a large glass window. But the fish-tank metaphor is, wisely, not spelled out and Pumphord may only be saying that the reality of people is more than meets the eye.

This is only his second full-length play, and he shows a greater skill at developing the relationship between hard task-master and willing servant, than in shifting to something deeper when the older man must risk his liberty to save the youngster. Even so, Pumphord knows the value of long-term plotting: Nick has been jailed after a botched car theft and escaped while being taken to hospital; a sloppy writer would leave it at that, but Pumphord calls the idea back into use with satisfying legibility.

In a production by Debbie Seymour alert to the nuances of mistrust, Dave Hill and Paul Slack turn in as vitally convincing a pair of performances as you could hope to see. Hill shows why O'Connor would relinquish his acquired reserve for the relief of exercising his wit; Slack's Nick, the eternal loser, even at ping-pong, makes his bursts of bravado the outcome of the same nervousness that has him rustling in his newspaper bed like a disoriented mouse.

## Handling a sensual journey

CONCERT  
Paul Griffiths

LPO/Masur  
Festival Hall

An age that can take the opera of Stockhausen ought to be able to find some way of handling *Le martyre de Saint Sébastien*, d'Annunzio's five-act spectacle of eros angelical with music by Debussy; perhaps the fly-swept path to sensual death and paradise will be de-performed by Alice Goodman, the librettist of John Adams's *Nixon in China*, who is said to be working on an English version.

Meanwhile, we generally make do with the orchestral suite, which includes much that makes the music remarkable - the wandering triads that look back through Debussy's career to his setting of Rossetti's *Blessed Damozel* and forward another generation to Messiaen, or the passages of strangeness and mystery where Debussy seems to hear the saint as a hero of Edgar Allan Poe - but exclude some delectable songs and choral pieces. Here the whole thing was served up, though with the questionable retention of a big speaking part for an actor doubling as narrator and Sébastien.

Nobody could have minded too much that Friedhelm Ederer gave us an accented French: anything diminishing the comprehensibility of the text is a positive advantage. But it did seem a pity, when this music is so rarely performed, to have great chunks of it covered by d'Annunzio's self-narrative. The dance in the first act, where Polovnian savagery meets Debussian evanescence, was a particular victim, and altogether too much was lost for the sake of odd moments where the text elucidates the musical expression, such as the glance at *Paradis* explained with the line "My soul is sorrowful even unto death".

However, all the sombre, strident and luminous colours of the score were beautifully rendered by the South Bank's resident orchestra-elect, even if Kurt Masur's conducting was sometimes rhythmically over-robust, his decisive string attacks making the Apollonian cithara players sound like a rugby club.

The London Philharmonic Chorus were at their best in floating the exultant final choruses, and the Finchley Children's Music Group made a bright, brave effort against the problems of slippery Debussian harmony and French. Sylvia McNair, radiant and pure, was perfect for the songs of virgins and celestial voices.

Less time, no doubt, had been devoted to Schumann's Fourth Symphony, though the horns had a moment of whooping glory at the start of the finale.

## Mature, but still learning

JAZZ  
Clive Davis

Ian Shaw  
HQ Restaurant

We are likely to hear a lot about Ian Shaw in the coming year. Already touted in some quarters as the vocal find of the Eighties, the 26-year-old singer is easing himself through the transition from the small club circuit to the recording studio. His debut album for JCR - the label run by the owners of one of his regular haunts, the Jazz Cuff - is due for release shortly, and there is the prospect of a contract with one of the major record companies.

It is easy to see why he is attracting this sort of interest. Despite his youth, he already possesses enormous confidence, with a voice that is mature enough to tackle anything from an intimate torch song to a rumbustious rhythm 'n' blues work-out. His androgynous stage persona - a mixture of energy and vulnerability, seems tailor-made for the modern market.

He is usually to be seen with a feisty, soul-influenced backing band. For his performance at the HQ, he appeared with the sparest of accompaniment, from the pianist Adrian York and the bass player Richard Lee. Most of the material stayed within the standard repertoire, though the inclusion of "Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most" - a song rarely heard outside of a Betty Carter set - was a welcome surprise.

There were full-blooded readings of "I Should Care" and "God Bless the Child". Shaw's one weakness at the moment is a tendency to give each piece the same overlay of heat and falsetto; improvisation. The virtuoso effects sometimes flow too easily, blurring the emotional content of the songs.

Shaw will be playing the HQ on alternate Saturdays for the rest of the month, in tandem with Carol Grimes. His next appearance will find him in a similarly company of the eccentric soprano saxophonist, Lol Coxhill.

## Frans Hals

Royal Academy of Arts

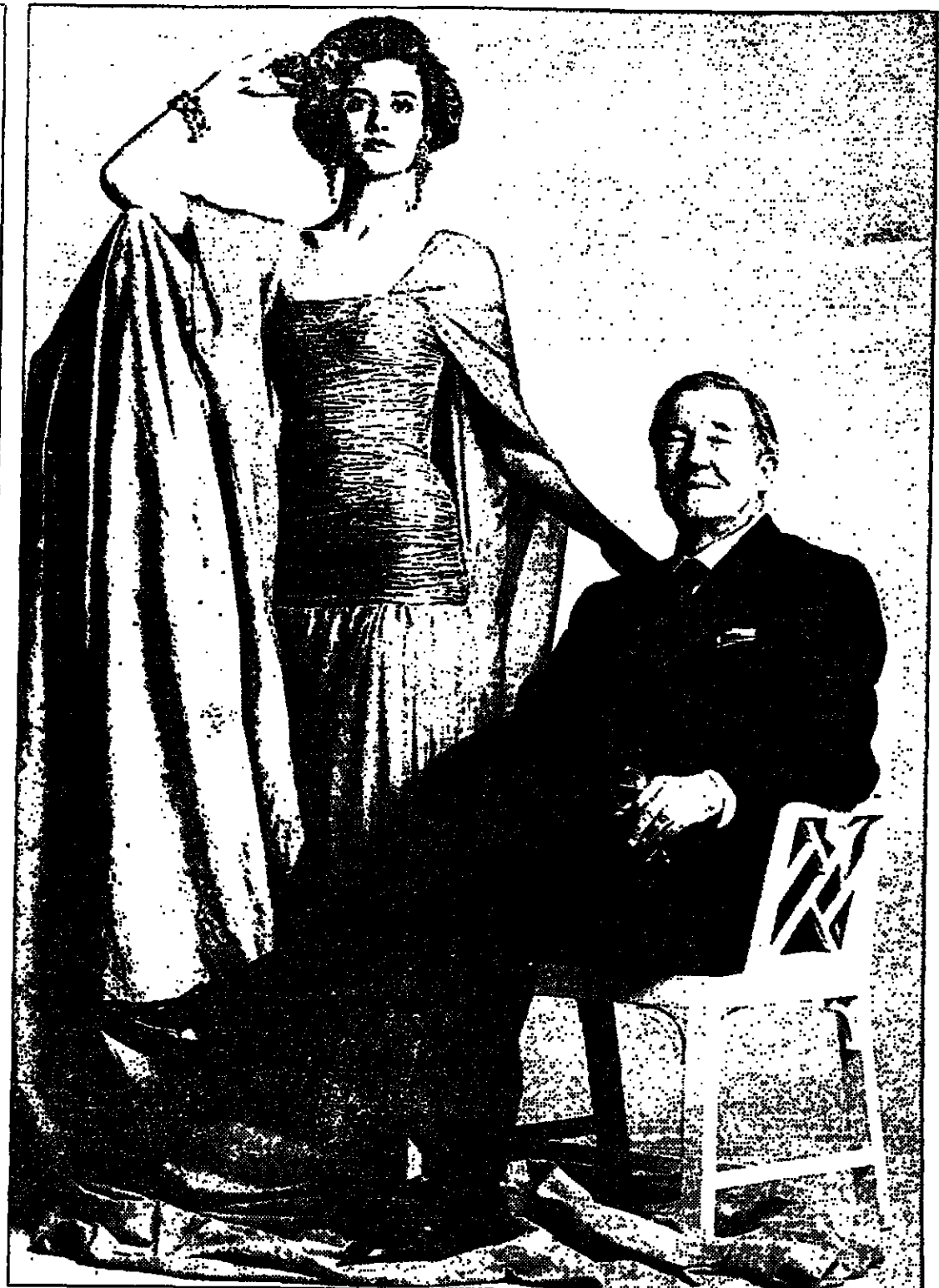
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

15 January - 8 April 1990





## FASHION by Liz Smith



Above left: Anouska Hempel with model wearing dark green velvet riding coat and ivory satin skirt with short train  
Above: Hardy Amies and draped flame chiffon evening dress  
Left: Victor Edelstein and burgundy and cream chiffon dress  
Hair and make-up by Wendy Sudd for Schumi, 18 Port St, SW1  
Photographs by SNOWDON

# Applying pure couture

Five London fashion houses with a royal seal of approval are together creating a British couture season

**H**aute couture in Paris sizzles with style and luxury taken to daring extremes — and it is regularly in the red. In London, a band of discreet couturiers keeps aloof simply by plying its dressmaking trade, supplying "bespoke" clothes cut, fitted and sewn for an individual customer. Guardians of an aristocratic tradition, these houses accept that the stylish but sensible clothes which become part of an evolving wardrobe, carrying a woman from race meeting to charity ball, can never generate the international muscle on which Paris fashion's vast empires selling luxury goods are built today.

But the fact that haute couture, founded in Paris by an Englishman, Charles Frederick Worth, in 1858, still flourishes in its purest sense in London is being celebrated next week. Five couture houses — Hardy Amies, Victor Edelstein, Hartnell, Anouska Hempel and Lachasse — are collaborating to stage their spring shows on consecutive days and establish a London couture season.

Between them the five claim as customers every female member of the Royal Family. Sir Hardy Amies, knighted last year shortly before his eightieth birthday, is the leader of the pack. He has dressed the Queen for most of his 45 years as a couturier, and his design team, now headed by Ken Fleetwood, recently made clothes for the Duchess of York. The House of Hartnell continues the tradition of its founder in creating the Queen's shimmering, beaded state dresses and the gentle, Winterhalter-style chignons that flutter around the Queen Mother. The Princess of Wales regularly sits in at a rehearsal of Edelstein's shows. The streamlining navy silk drop-waist dress that has recently featured the Duchess of York's pregnant silhouette is a Hempel creation.

But besides royalty there are numbers of women in this country able to spend £2,000 and more on a one-off outfit, and prepared to stand for the three

or four fittings it will require. Mary Goldring, the financial journalist and Channel 4 interviewer, is a long-time couture customer. She regards custom-made clothes as a worthwhile investment, and has followed her favourite *venduse*, Madame Nina, to Hartnell. "It is money well spent," she says. "What shocks me is the price of ready-made clothes. A couture suit fits. It is well-tailored and hardwearing. Being fitted is very disillusioning but very salutary. But you can dictate details you want. I demand pockets and take a passport with me to show them the size they must be."

With Gina Fratini installed as guest designer this season, Hartnell will acquire a fresh set of customers next week. The Princess Royal, Princess Alexandra and Princess Michael of Kent are among Fratini's fans (she closed her own fashion house in November) who will want to follow her distinctive, romantic style.

Lachasse, founded in 1928, is the house where many London couturiers, including Hardy Amies and the late Digby Morton, made their name. Peter Lewis-Crown today continues the house tradition for natty tailoring (a suit costs around £1,000) that looks little changed from the days when Princess Marina and the late Countess Mountbatten were customers.

Bellville Sassoon, although not defined as a couture house because of its flourishing off-the-peg line, also shows next week. The violet tweed coat-dress worn by the Princess of Wales recently is a Bellville Sassoon couture number. Founded by Belinda Bellville in 1953, the house is run today by David Sassoon, who joined as designer straight from the Royal College of Art. "In London we create clothes for the customer, not just to hang in a salon," Sassoon explains.

Hardy Amies is at 14 Savile Row, W1; Victor Edelstein, 3/4 Stanhope Mews West, SW7; Hartnell, 26 Bruton Street, W1; Anouska Hempel, 2 Pond Place, SW3; Lachasse, 29 Thurloe Place, SW7.

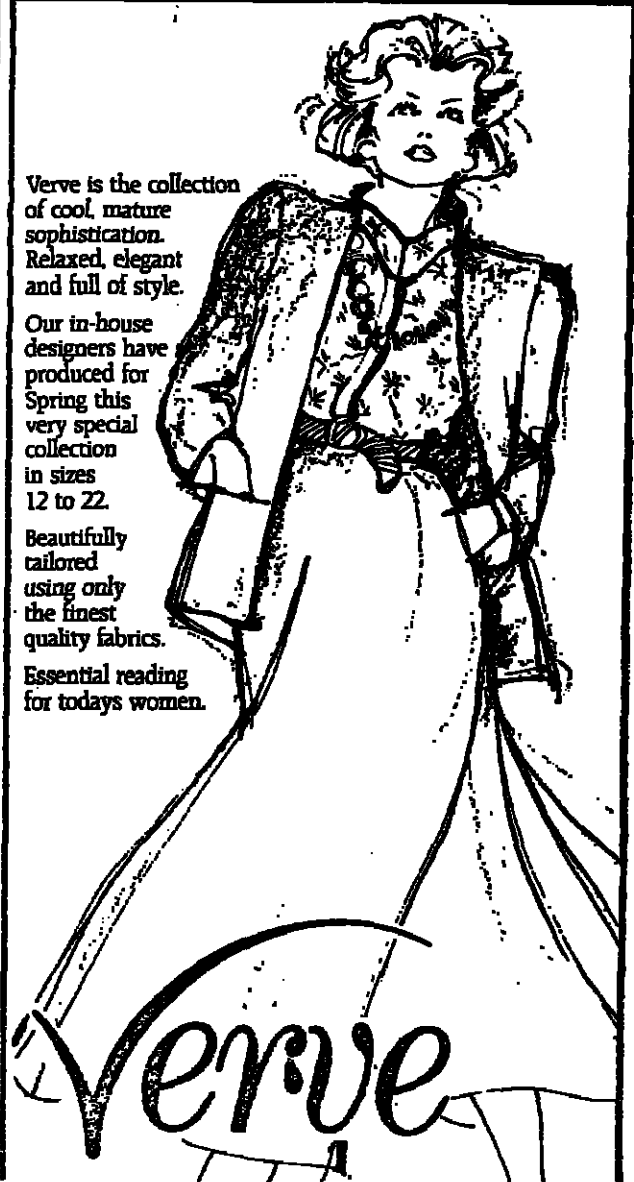


## Paris glitter

**T**he fireworks at the end of many a couture collection in Paris are regularly supplied by the sequins, bugle-beading and gold embroidery created by the Parisian *parurier*, Francois Lesage. From his cramped atelier in Paris Lesage's team of 90 seamstresses labour for as long as 600 hours, using 255,000 sequins and 46ft of silk ribbon, to create a Saint Laurent jacket ablaze with Van Gogh sunflowers, or a Bill Blass beaded T-shirt inspired by a Matisse still-life. With a price tag of around £50,000, many of Lesage's masterpieces end up as museum pieces. Liberty is celebrating the art of the 120-year-old Maison

Lesage from Friday with an exhibition in the Middle Gallery on the fourth floor of its London store. Lesage beaded accessories will be available on the ground floor, priced from £145 for a pair of beaded earrings to £2,250 for an evening bag encrusted as a basket brimming with pink roses.

Spink in St James's, whose collection of vintage haute couture ranges from *déjà vu* creations by Worth to Sixties numbers by Balenciaga, is celebrating British couture next week. Its new catalogue, "Haute Couture at Spink" (£15 from Spink, 5 King Street, London SW1), is a lavishly referenced work for fashion enthusiasts, who should also head for the sale of fashion books at Bonhams on Thursday (viewing 8.45am-5pm today and tomorrow at 65-69 Lots Road, London SW10).



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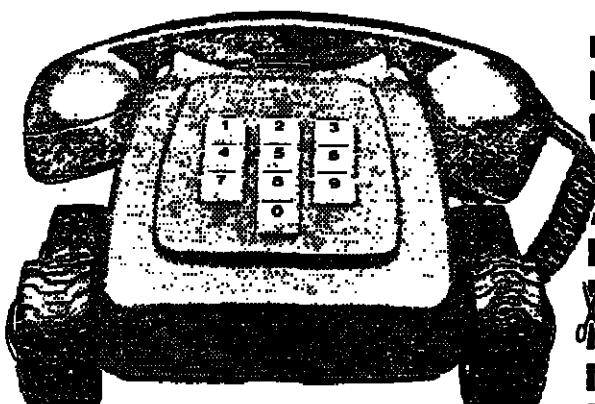
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## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Gillian MaxeyTragic  
match of  
the day

ON CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Given the extensive media coverage at the time and subsequently, and the publication last week of the Taylor report, there seems little more to say about the tragedy at Hillsborough. Yorkshire Television's careful reconstruction of the events of that dreadful afternoon for First Tuesday (ITV, 10.35pm) does not claim to propound any startlingly new theories. The production team was allowed access to the police investigation (but on condition that the film would not be shown until after publication of the Taylor report).



Witness: Sgt. John Morgan was on duty at Hillsborough (ITV, 10.35pm)

There are interviews with Sgt. John Morgan, who was on duty at Hillsborough, and Liverpool fans, one of whom lost his son. The programme cannot help but echo what many felt at the time, and endorsed by the Taylor inquiry, that the heart of the matter was a loss of control by the police. With the help of police video tapes, plus the television footage shot by cameramen who had gone to Sheffield expecting to cover a football match, the unfolding of the tragedy is charted almost minute by minute. It is still astonishing that the start of the match was not delayed. Supporters were being crushed to death even as Liverpool and Nottingham Forest were pushing for an early goal. The police could have sealed off the tunnel to the already overcrowded central pens and diverted the fans elsewhere. Such are the judgements of hindsight. The film does not dwell unnecessarily on the human horror. But for Sgt. Morgan the sight of the pile of bodies lying waist-deep crushed up against a wall is something that comes back to him every single day.

Things didn't what they used to be down the East End, and for the people of Brick Lane, change has more definitely not been for the better. A local artist fights for his house and for a beautiful old synagogue, though his eloquent poem is unlikely to persuade the developers. Outsiders are noticing it as well. The comedy actress Su Pollard, a northerner, reflects the people and the atmosphere and fears that the area will soon be going the way of San Francisco: "Sweet as candy, with cobbled streets and fake gas lamps". The last in the documentary series, *The Lane* (BBC2, 9.30pm), is a lament for a vanishing culture, with the relentless push of City money seen as the undisputed villain of the piece.

## BBC 1

- 6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Kirsty Wark. Includes regular news headlines; business news; sports bulletin; regional news; weather and travel information; and a review of the morning papers with Paul O'Connell. 6.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television.
- 9.20 Karyn, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
- 10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r).
- 10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Pegg, begins with Playdays, introduced by David Benson and Philip and Sue Morris (r) 10.50 Roobarb (r) 10.55 Five to Eleven. Catherine Grier with a reading.
- 11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. With Jayne Irving and Eamonn Holmes.
- 12.00 News and weather followed by Gyles and Judy. Judy Spens and Andy Craig are joined by Floella Benjamin and special guest Julian Pettifer. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hutton. Weather.
- 1.30 Neighbours. Sharon is in trouble when it is discovered that she copied the maths exam paper; Todd's negligence has led to a fire; and Jim receives a disturbing telephone call from Washington DC. (Ceefax)
- 2.15 Film: *Body Heat* (1986) starring Michael Douglas. The true story of a man who was wrongly diagnosed as a schizophrenic at the age of 17 and then spent 20 years in a mental asylum where his condition deteriorated. Directed by Lee Grant.
- 3.50 Green Claws, with Nick Marcor and Stella Goddard. 4.10 Bonanza (r) 4.15 Jackanory. Michael Williams with part two of *How's Business*, by Alison Prince. 4.25 New York Bear Show. 4.35 Knowhow. Information series presented by Beverly Wood and Mark Satter with special guest Nicky Campbell.
- 5.00 Newsround. 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode 11. (Ceefax)
- 5.25 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather.
- 6.30 Newsround South East.
- 7.00 Holiday 50 presented by Anne Robinson. Special guest Derek Nimmo goes on a tour of Australia and meets the cast of *Neighbours*; while Kathy Taylor takes up golf lessons on a self-catering holiday in Britain, and Eamonn Holmes visits Britain's latest all-weather leisure park in Suffolk. (Ceefax)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Sharon is suspicious of Wicky; Cindy is annoyed with Ian over his latest plan; and Michelle goes to see Pauline and Arthur about her current situation. (Ceefax)
- 8.00 The Variety Club Awards for 1989. Terry Wogan hosts the Variety Club of Great Britain's annual show business awards, held earlier today at London's Hilton Hotel. Chief Barker Paul Gregg presents the awards for the most outstanding performances of 1989 from film, television, radio and music, before an invited audience of celebrities.
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30 A Sunday. Episodes four. Sally begins her first term at university and decides to arrange a meeting with her real father. Meanwhile, Felix has taken a new lover - Richard, ex-wife - and Helen wrestles with her conscience in keeping her daughter's affair secret from Richard. Starring Rudi Davis, Trevor Eve and Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 10.20 Film: *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. Barry Williams stars in the Deep South with a strong female cast including Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclaine and Daryl Hannah, and Family Business, a story about three generations of crooks, with Sean Connery as Dustin Hoffman's father, who in turn is father to Matthew Broderick. Plus a location report from Liverpool, the setting for Willy Russell's latest venture, *Dancin' Through the Dark*.
- 10.50 International Snooker. David Ikin introduces quarter-final coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament from the Wembley Conference Centre.
- 12.00 Weather.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with news and Good Morning Britain, introduced by Keith Chegwin and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Includes News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine has a feature on maternity wear.
- 9.25 Lucky Ladders. Game show hosted by Lennie Bennett. 9.55 News and weather.
- 10.00 The Time. The Place. Topical discussion series.
- 10.40 This Morning. Magazine programme presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's items include answers to readers' problems; personal finance advice; and David Bellamy exploring hedgerows and heathland. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.
- 12.10 Rod, Jane and Freddy. For the young 12-30 Home and Away. Carly is thrilled by her reconciliation with Matt; Colin and Andy decide to change her image and prove that she is more than a dried-up spinster; and Nicholas continues his campaign against Rod, who begins to doubt her own sanity.
- 1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather. 1.20 Thames News and weather. 1.30 Santa Barbara. Marcello is called in to help capture Peter.
- 2.00 TV Weekly. Anne Diamond goes behind the scenes of popular ITV programmes. 2.30 Take the High Road. Mr Parker and Andy Archer feeling pleased with themselves.
- 3.00 Win, Lose or Draw. Today's game show guests are Michaela Strachan, Sandy Toksvig and David Burt. Peter Simon. 3.25 Thames News and weather. 3.30 The Young Doctors. Erica Shaw undergoes tests that could reveal something about her.
- 4.00 Fangle Rock. 4.15 Bugs Bunny in Mad as a Hare (r) 4.20 T-Bag and the Pearls of Wisdom. Sally goes to Scotland in search of the missing pearls. 4.30 Georgia Hale. 4.40 Count Duckula (r).
- 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for sixth-formers presented by Bob Holness.
- 5.40 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather.
- 6.00 Home and Away (r).
- 6.25 Thames News followed by Chinese papers.
- 6.50 Thames Today. Jackie Spradley with news of the British Refugee Council.
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Nick secretly tries to replace Frank's car with a new one, but could lose out on her date with Chris.
- 7.30 Thames Reports on the winners and losers in the Poll Tax "lottery" and the likely political fallout for Mrs Thatcher.
- 8.00 The Bill. Against the Odds. With Burnside away, Graig is flexing his muscles as acting DI, and Dashwood is trying to make life as hard as possible for him. (Oracle)
- 8.30 The Heart of the Matter. Homecoming. Domestic violence series starring Prunella Scales, Joan Sanderson and Peggy Ann Wood.
- 9.00 The Sweeney: Bad Apple. DI Regan and DS Carter of the Flying Squad encounter a particularly nasty individual while investigating a case of police corruption. Starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (r).
- 10.00 News at Ten with Annika Burnet and Trevor Nunn. 10.30 Thames News and weather.
- 10.35 First Tuesday. Disaster at Hillsborough (see Choice).
- 11.35 Thames Snooker Classic. Tonight's action features the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters for the William Hill Trophy. Presented by Tony Francis.
- 12.35am Film: *Dracula AD 1972* (1972). Starring Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing and John Wood. During a party attended by a group of young people at a church, one of the party-goers ceremoniously calls up all evil spirits, including Dracula. Directed by Alan Gibson.
- 2.30 News at Eleven. Story: The Donahue. Phil Donahue meets women who found out that their husbands had several wives.
- 3.30 Dark Night. Inter play and club general knowledge quiz contest. Hosted by Ross King.
- 4.00 News headlines followed by Entertainment UK. Weekly guide to the latest in films, music, and theatre from all over the world.
- 5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Bith. Ends at 6.00.

## BBC 2

- 7.10 Open University: Technology - Facts are not enough! Ends at 7.35.
- 8.00 News. 8.15 Westminster. 8.25 Daytime on Two: German for beginners. 8.30 Scottish chess. 10.15 Learning to read. 10.40 Young technologists' challenges. 11.00 Exploring rhythm. 11.15 Secrets. 11.35 Science challenge. 11.55 Tutorial topics. 12.15 Periodic table. 12.25 The story of the Black Country. 12.55 Italian for beginners. 1.20 Pigeon Street. 1.40 The Rebecca riot.
- 2.00 News and weather followed by a series for the very young. 2.15 Sea Heart (r).
- 2.40 International Snooker. The Benson and Hedges Masters. 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Including Prime Minister's Question Time. 3.30 News, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 International Snooker. Further coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters.
- 5.00 Advice Shop. Will the new health and safety regulations create a better working environment?
- 5.30 First Tuesday. (r). (Ceefax)
- 6.00 Film: *City Heat* (1986) starring Gig Young. A disillusioned police officer joins a criminal attorney in a well-paid but dubious job. Directed by John H. Auer.
- 7.35 Biko (r) starring Phil Silvers (r).
- 8.00 Talking Libertas: Cold Comfort. The prevention and treatment of leishmaniasis.
- 8.30 Food and Drink follows up some of the issues discussed in this evening's edition of *Taking Liberties*.
- 9.00 ScreenPlay Firsts: Looking After Number One, by Ben Rostul. Dick is a pigeon fancier and Jean fancies Dick. They are brought together by a stray bird.
- 9.30 The Lane: Further On Up the Road (see Choice).
- 10.15 Design Sense: Smell. The fifth of five programmes on the relationship between design and the senses.
- 10.30 Newswatch.
- 11.15 The Late Show. Harold Pinter delivers Salman Rushdie's Herbert Read Memorial Lecture. 11.55
- 12.00 Open University: Fifth-century Athens. Ends at 12.35am.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily. 9.25 Schools.
- 12.00 The Parliament Programme. 12.30 Business Daily. 1.00 Sesame Street. 2.00 Home Town. Halifax. 2.30 The Senior Service. For older viewers. (Oracle)
- 2.45 Black Forest Clinic. German medical drama series (r).
- 3.35 Martin Buchanansanger (r).
- 3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Hollywood Hopeville. People hoping to find fame and fortune in Hollywood get the chance to audition.
- 4.30 Countdown. 5.00 The Lane Ranger (r). Vintage Western adventures.
- 5.30 4th Dimension (r).
- 6.00 Gopher Comedy series. 6.30 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (r).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News. With Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. 7.50 Comment followed by Weather. 8.00 Ordinary People: Whose Art? Whose Culture? A painter, a poet, a television writer discuss why there is a dearth of women in the arts. (Oracle)
- 8.30 That's Entertaining. Richard Cowley has to devise an "office party" for members of Gerry Cordy's Circus. (Oracle)
- 9.00 Joint Custody: A New Kind of Family. A documentary about three couples who have committed to the sharing child-rearing despite having divorced.
- 10.00 Chameleon 123. Comedy series set in Roman Britain.
- 10.30 The Secret. A new approach to television magic encompassing bizarre special effects, black humour and numerous other tricks.
- 11.00 Big Big Country. Hank Wangford on the duets of country and western music.
- 12.00 Image. Animated story.
- 12.10 The Last Trick of the Trick. Schwarzwald and Mr Edgar. A look at life through the eyes of a Czech animator Jan Svankmajer.
- 12.25 Film: *Brother Can You Spare a Dime?* (1935). A documentary directed by Philippe Mora combining newsreel footage and extracts from feature films to chronicle the history of America from the Wall Street Crash to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Ends at 12.30am.

## SATELLITE

## SKY ONE

- 6.00am International Business Report. 6.30 European Business Channel. 6.00 The DJ Kat Show. 6.30 Prime Pot Pourri. 10.00 The New Price is Right. 10.30 The Young Doctors. 11.00 Sky by Day. 12.00 Another World. 1.00pm As the World Turns. 2.00 Loving 2.30 A Problem Shared. 3.00 Here's Lucy. 3.40 Captain Caveman. 4.00 Godzilla. 4.30 The New Leave It to Beaver. 5.00 Sky Star Search. 6.00 The New Price is Right. 6.30 Sale of the Century. 7.00 Frank Bough's World. 7.30 Zanth Data Systems Cup. 8.30 The Hitchhiker. 10.00 Jameson Tonight. 11.00 Sky World News. Tonight 11.30 Voyagers!

## SKY NEWS

- News on the hour. 6.00am International Business Report. 6.30 European Business Channel. 6.00 International Business Report. 10.30 Frank Bough. 11.30 International Business Report. 1.30pm NBC's Question Time. Live 2.30 Parliament Live. 4.30 NBC Today. 5.00 Live At Five. 6.30 Sunday 2000. 7.30 The Reporters. 8.30 Frank Bough. 9.30 NBC Nightly News. 12.30am Frank Bough. 1.30 Target. 2.30 The Reporters. 3.30 Frank Bough. 4.30 Target.

## SKY MOVIES

- From 8.00am The Shopping Channel. 2.00pm More and Dad Can't Hear Me. A young girl tries to hide from her friends the fact that her parents are deaf. 3.00 My Peak is My Own. Tale of racial conflict encompassing bizarre special effects, black humour and numerous other tricks. 4.00 Journey Back to Oz: Animated tale. 6.00 Carry On At Your Convenience. More outrageous humour from the Carry On team. 7.40 Entertainment Tonight. 8.00 Radio Days (1987). Woody Allen narrates this tale of American film life in the 1940s (recreated). 10.00 Soul Man (1988). A white teenager pretends to be black to gain a scholarship so that he can attend Harvard University. 11.40 For Those in Love - Part One (1982). Based on the true wartime experiences of Polish Jew Martin Gray. 2.30am The Gate (1987). A gate to hell is accidentally opened up in a back garden. 4.00 Planet 10589. Starting Water. Matthew. Ends at 6.40am.

## EUROSPORT

- 6.00am International Business Report. 6.30 European Business Channel. 6.00 The DJ Kat Show. 6.30 Menu. 9.00 NHL Ice Hockey: Chicago Blackhawks v Winnipeg Jets. 11.00 World Cup Skiing. 12.00 Ringo Starr - Superstars. Muhammad Ali v George Foreman. 1.00pm The World's Strongest Man. 2.00 Happy Birthday Eurosport. 4.00 College Basketball. 5.00 Goals. 6.00 Indoor Superstars. 7.00 World Cup Skiing. 8.00 World Championship of Motor Sport. 9.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling. 10.00 Basketball. 12.00 Bodybuilding.

## MTV

- 6.00am Kristiane Backer. 11.00 Remote Control. 11.30 Club MTV. 12.00 Kristiane Backer. 1.00am Marcel Vanthilt. 4.00 3 from 1. 4.10 Marcel Vanthilt. 4.30 Coca-Cola Contest. 4.40 Marcel Vanthilt. 5.00 Remote Control. 6.30 Ray Charles. 7.30 Club MTV. 8.00 6.30 European Top 20. 10.00 Coca-Cola Report. 10.10 Maliken Wexo. 1.00am Videos.

## SCREENSPORT

- 7.00am Spanish Soccer. 8.45 Pro Soccer. 10.00 US Professional Bowling. 11.30 US Soccer. 1.00am US Soccer. 2.00 US Soccer. 3.00 Powersports Special. 4.00 Football. 5.00 Spanish Rugby League. 7.30 Update. Spanish Soccer. 8.30 World Rugby Championships. 10.30 Ice Hockey. 12.30am US Pro Soccer.

## LIFESTYLE

- 10.00am Jake's Fitness Minute. 10.01 Search for Tomorrow. 10.30 Slim Cooking. 10.30 Spain Spain. 11.00 Cops. 11.10 Edge of Night. 11.30 Great American Gameshow. 12.00am Body Talk. 12.30 Slim Cooking. 1.00 The Rich Also Cry. 2.00 Search for Tomorrow. 2.30 Tea Break. 3.10 Cinema. 4.40 Great American Gameshow.

Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, TV Guide.

## RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW News on the hour from 6.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00pm. 6.00am Jackie Brantley. 6.30 Simon Mayo. 6.30 Simon Bates. 7.00am News. 7.30am News. 8.00am News. 8.30am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00am News. 12.30am News. 1.00am News. 1.30am News. 2.00am News. 2.30am News. 3.00am News. 3.30am News. 4.00am News. 4.30am News. 5.00am News. 5.30am News. 6.00am News. 6.30am News. 7.00am News. 7.30am News. 8.00am News. 8.30am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00am News. 12.30am News. 1.00am News. 1.30am News. 2.00am News. 2.30am News. 3.00am News. 3.30am News. 4.00am News. 4.30am News. 5.00am News. 5.30am News. 6.00am News. 6.30am News. 7.00am News. 7.30am News. 8.00am News. 8.30am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00am News. 12.30am News. 1.00am News. 1.30am News. 2.00am News. 2.30am 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## Hostage relatives appeal to Rushdie

By Andrew McEwen  
Diplomatic Editor

Relatives of British hostages held in Lebanon appealed last night to Mr Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, and to his publishers, not to publish a paperback version. They said that the principle of free speech had already been upheld through publication of the hardback version, and it was time to balance free speech against self-restraint. Further publication would be "misconceived and irresponsible".

The signatories included Mrs Frances Waite, the wife of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who was kidnapped in Beirut three years ago while trying to negotiate the release of other hostages, and Mr David Waite, his brother.

The appeal, issued through Lambeth Palace, came amid fears that a paperback version would cause further damage to Anglo-Iranian relations, which have not begun to recover from the death sentence on Mr Rushdie imposed by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Until relations improve and diplomatic links, broken by Iran last March, are restored, there will be little hope of Tehran using its influence with the Shia groups believed to be holding the hostages.

The anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's "fatwa" falls next Wednesday (February 14) and police are concerned that extremist Muslim groups may use the occasion to give vent to their anger. The statement said the book had caused grave offence to Muslims throughout the world, and had already caused serious damage to community relations in Britain and deaths in other parts of the world.

"We believe the time has come to balance the principle of free speech against that of self-restraint."

## Downs searched for girl's attacker



Officers clearing undergrowth near Devil's Dyke on the South Downs, East Sussex, yesterday in the search for clues to the man who assaulted a young girl.

By Stewart Tindler  
Crime Correspondent

More than 100 police aided by dogs and a helicopter scoured stretches of the South Downs, East Sussex, yesterday in the hunt for a man who abducted a girl aged seven after severely sexually assaulting her.

Det Supt Gordon Harrison, head of Brighton CID, said that the girl had been killed by her attacker, who suffocated her to unconsciousness before assaulting her.

The police were questioning several men last night about the attack. A car was being examined by forensic scientists, officers said.

The girl was kidnapped in daylight at about 4.30pm on Sunday, a few hundred yards from her home on the Whitehawk estate, east Brighton. "If

there was a parent living in that area, I would keep my children isolated," Mr Harrison said.

He appealed on local radio for parents in the Brighton area to be vigilant. "The girl came close to a fatal injury," he said.

The girl was wearing white roller skate boots when she vanished after playing with other children. She told the police she was returning from a local sweet shop when she saw a man, apparently working on a red car, who grabbed her and told her to be quiet or she would be hurt. She was then bundled into the boot and driven about six miles to Devil's Dyke, high on the Downs above Brighton.

The girl said she was dragged out of the boot and pushed onto the back seat of the car. She passed out when the

man put his hand over her face. When she awoke, just after 5pm, she was naked and alone. She hid in bracken and undergrowth before being found by a couple who took her to a nearby golf club.

The girl was released after treatment at a Brighton hospital. Mr Harrison said she had made a remarkable recovery.

Last night detectives said they thought they faced a long, hard investigation. Det Chief Inspector Tim O'Connor said police were checking red cars in the Brighton area.

Asked about the victim, Mr O'Connor said: "She is a perky little girl." He said she had helped police and "she has done wonderfully well for us."

The girl was questioned with her

mother present by a specially trained woman officer using a video recorder.

Police said the attacker could live on the estate or have worked there recently. He is described as being aged about 30 with a beard or moustache. Police said they did not know if he had left the girl believing her to be dead.

The police began making house-to-house calls on the estate. Near where the attack took place officers found a roller-skate boot similar to that worn by the girl. However, there was no sign of the girl's other clothing and police are to continue searching the Downs for it today.

No links have been found between the attack and the death of two girls who were murdered in a Brighton wood several years ago, or the sexual attack on a boy six years ago.

## Political sketch

## Odd couples and political pairs

Your sketchwriter's day had started with Derek Jameson on the clock-radio interviewing a lady from "Sole-mates". This (it turned out) is a benevolent organization which arranges introductions between people with one foot which is a different size from the other. If (for instance) you have a size seven left foot and a size nine right foot, then you find someone with the reverse foot-sizes and shop together.

Pondering this concept, I came in to listen to Questions at Westminster. At the Dispatch Box was Social Security Secretary Tony Newton.

Almost alone in Britain, Mr Newton does seem to understand the Social Security regulations. And he appears to be a decent man, so anxious to help the poor that his brow is furrowed, his shoulders shrunk by worrying on their behalf. When Max Madden (Lab, Bradford W) asked if Newton could live on the £46.50 benefit available to a constituent, one looked down at the figure and face of a Secretary of State who might as well be managing on less, for all the fun he was having. In short, Newton is long on expertise, short on jollity.

A little way down the bench from Mr Newton sat Nicholas Soames (C, Crawley) in Day-Glo green socks, chucking at some joke shared with the Labour benches. Soames is everything Newton isn't. Soames is portly, flamboyant, fun. But (despite his fox-hunting self-parody) Soames, like Newton, is a Tory who does believe in helping the poor. Soames, in short, shares Newton's social goals, is shorter on expertise, but has jollity to spare.

And I thought of the lady at Sole-mates. What a pair these two would make! With Soames to crack the jokes and Newton to work the slide-rule, they could carry all before them at the DHSS.

The application of the Sole-mates concept to politics was now apparent on all sides.

Michael Meacher (Lab, Oldham West) was intoning something menacing about "mortgage misery for millions". Though we have never seen Mr Meacher in an anaesthetist's gown and surgical mask with murderous

syringe in one hand, once the possibility has struck you, the image is impossible to banish. Mr Meacher clearly wants to help, but calls to mind a remark once made about the Labour Chancellor Sir Stafford Cripps: "Whenever Stafford has tried to increase the sum total of human happiness, grass never grows again."

Opposite Meacher, on the Tory benches, was Miss Emma Nicholson (Devon W & Torridge). She had risen to reassure pensioners with savings that she cared about them. And indeed her comely figure is a reassurance even before she speaks. When she does, it is in the warm yet well-bred tones of a home-counties woman who yet has time for meals-on-wheels.

Imagine a Meacher/Nicholson partnership — he to teach the ideology at Workers' Educational Association lectures; she to move among the people, blanding up their worries. What a pity that Class and Party have divided them, for with Mike on the motor-bike and Emma in the sidecar, the power of the combo would parallel that of the austere Mr Peter and the tender Mrs Virginia Bottomley.

... But enough of such fantasy. I stayed to hear the normally shy Michael Alison (C, Selby) who answers "Questions for the Church Commissioners" get two belly-laughs from an astonished House.

Dennis Skinner had asked about mining-subsidence affecting the Bolsover parish church of St Mary and St Lawrence. Mr Alison suggested that "St Dennis" might now be added to the church's name — and then told Labour's juggernaut-throated Frank Haynes (who said he "passed by" this church often) that it was perhaps Mr Haynes's passage which had caused the subsidence.

As I left, Skinner was complaining that the Defence Secretary had "tried to cover his tracks" over Colin Wallace by writing to him (Skinner) how you would cover your tracks by writing to Dennis Skinner is perhaps the deepest enigma of this whole affair.

Matthew Parris

## 'Raw deal' for children

Continued from page 1

dards became poorer at more advanced and applied levels.

Primary schools rarely planned their curricula as a whole or adequately reviewed what was actually happening in the classroom. As a result schools had no overall picture of the time spent on different subjects, nor did they know the details of the teaching experienced by individual pupils.

There were signs that the new National Curriculum was having "positive effects" in forcing primary schools to plan their teaching better and to record the results. How-

ever, for the most part existing arrangements for assessing, recording and reporting on children's work were "inadequate and inconsistent".

Turning to secondary education, Mr Bolton said of the one-third of lessons which were below standard that teachers were failing to stretch their pupils' abilities.

However, innovations like the GCSE exams and the National Curriculum were acting as "forces for good" and improving teaching standards.

Shortages of equipment and books had not eased in the last 12 months and the

management of schools still "leaves much to be desired".

In higher and further education four-fifths of lectures were of a high standard although there were still cases of "spoon feeding".

Mr Bolton told a press conference that although there were still problems the majority of schools were "pleasant places" providing good education. "We ought not to talk ourselves into a deep pit of despair," he said. "It is actually a truism that for the majority education is actually working well."

Education reforms, page 2

## Patten plans poll tax curb

Continued from page 1

thing they have to do by the end of March.

The Government has asked local authorities to finalize their spending budgets by March 12, which would allow Mr Patten to demand cuts in spending before the charge was set.

Ministers are continuing to warn that they will not let local authorities get away with pitching in high expenditure plans this year in an attempt to blame it all on the introduction of the community charge.

However, despite pressure from Mr Bryan Gould,

Labour's environment spokesman, the Environment Department is refusing to say what criteria the Government will apply in charge-capping authorities or how the process will be implemented.

● Poll-tax rates will average £340 for every adult in England, according to the latest survey of local authorities (David Walker writes).

That is £62 per head more than the £278 that ministers said would be the maximum councils needed.

The survey was undertaken by the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, the

poll-tax officials' professional body, and covered 272 of the 401 English and Welsh district councils and London boroughs that will be levying the tax in April.

In Wales, Whitehall says councils need no more than £173 per adult. The survey, however, says the likely average will be £213.

The average poll tax in outer London is likely to be £397 per head and £442 in inner London.

● The poll-tax rate in Scotland will increase in April by about £27 per adult, bringing the average up to £328 a head.

## EC sanctions review

Continued from page 1

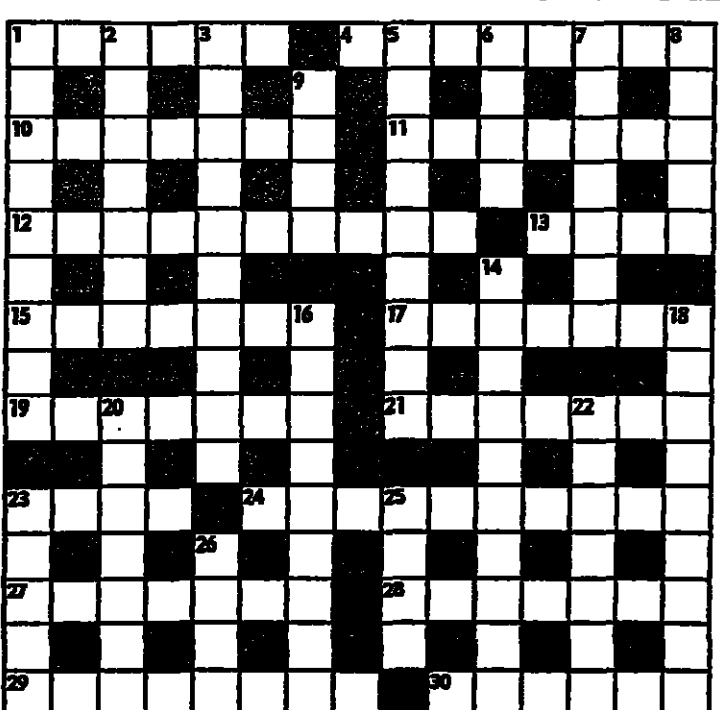
"Mr Jackson wanted to maintain pressure, but the Prime Minister did not believe this was the way to achieve continued progress."

● CAPE TOWN: Although

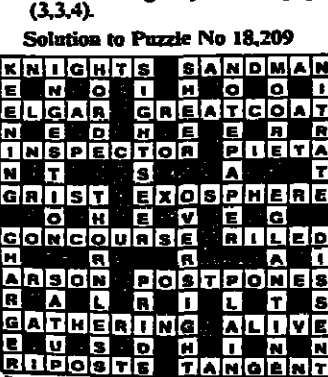
committed to sweeping political reforms, South Africa does not intend to abandon (racial) group rights to exclusive schools and residential areas (Gavin Bell writes).

After Mr de Klerk's initiative, senior ministers made it clear yesterday that racial segregation would continue in sensitive domestic spheres.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,210



- ACROSS**
- Country stripper finds position next to the West End (6).
  - Decade proceeded with external restraints (8).
  - One living on island with a calf (7).
  - Pity about bit of food not being finished (7).
  - Nuns resist ill-designed headgear (10).
  - Unpopular doctor came down to earth (4).
  - A father without exercise, 'e should be made fit (7).
  - Fag-end sailor put down pavement grille (7).
  - Purgative medicine getting rid of one's diseases (7).
  - If a sailor returns, then get a liqueur (7).
  - Free sheet with a piece of Indian music (4).
  - Not showing any diversity yet (3,3,4).
- DOWN**
- Check on article in that respect (7).
  - A mountain lake is hard to sully (7).
  - Most recent employment suggests retirement is imminent (4,4).
  - In our time 'green' is used to attract consumers (6).
  - Light cover helps Adam, being awkward (9).
  - Acc led by North American among players in card game (7).
  - It starts to make hand jump forward (6,4).
  - Keen fighter takes marines forward into dicey situation (9).
  - An 'erly chap turns up with a reputation (4).
  - National PM losing his head (7).
  - Bomb is not half an unpleasant experience (5).
  - Small island bird, not loud (4).
  - Animal may have trouble initially with limb going over one in road (6,4).
  - Avoid fish and poultry when young (9).
  - What injured soldier may have received — fruit and hospital books (9).
  - Investigate about ship's drift (7).
  - Fluid that comes with a plant (7).
  - Immoderate language restricted by beast? The opposite! (5).
  - Carry kid on back of bike (4).
  - Hypocrite making a pile, we hear (4).



- WORD-WATCHING**
- A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
- By Philip Howard
- SPLUCHIAN**
- A tobacco pouch
  - To pour stink-rods with rain
  - Cross-eyed
- PICKMAW**
- A Amerasian tribe
  - A wicked stepmother
  - The Black-headed gull
- BRANWAGON**
- A horse-drawn straw cart
  - A railway boxcar
  - A health-food fadism
- LYMPHEAD**
- A Highland gully
  - A white blood cell
  - An ancient athletics festival
- Answers on page 18

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**National traffic and roadworks**

C. London (within N & S Cires.) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 734  
M25 London Orbital only 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

**National motorways and roadworks**

West Country 737  
Wales 738  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

## WEATHER

In Northern Ireland and Scotland it will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times. England and Wales will be cloudy and mostly dry but rain will come into western areas during the morning and spread to eastern England in the afternoon. The rain will be followed by clearer, showery weather, with the showers heaviest and most frequent in the North and West. It will be windy in all areas. Outlook: Unsettled.

## ABROAD

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EC 'will be flexible over capital adequacy rules'

## Brittan woos securities firms

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, has sought to reassure the London securities industry that the Commission will be flexible over its proposals for new capital adequacy rules for securities companies.

The proposals are seen in London as likely to reduce competition and drive international securities business outside the Community to Switzerland.

Sir Leon, addressing the Overseas Bankers Club in London last night, said: "A more detailed treatment of securities positions than has so far been agreed is desirable to

reflect the risks in such positions, and also to produce a similar level of requirements for banks and securities firms."

The Securities Association, self-regulatory body for the securities business in Britain, has claimed that the Brussels proposals on capital adequacy — part of the planned investment services directive — would put independent securities firms at a disadvantage to universal banks, such as those in Germany, by setting too much store by basic capital and too little by hedging positions to reduce risk.

Sir Leon rejected the idea that the more flexible British

system could be retained locally. He said the proposed investment services directive, which would give an EC passport to securities firms, "would rightly be seen as of rather limited, if of any, value" if it left firms open to different rules in different Community member states.

He hinted that the definition of capital could be different for banks and non-banks to take account of different kinds of risks they run so as to achieve fair competition by regulation that had equivalent effect rather than being exactly the same.

But he insisted that changes in the definition of capital or

the measurement of capital requirements must not be so great as to distort the structure of firms to take advantage.

The Bank of England argued against rules for the securities industry which are geared too closely to rules for continental universal banks under the EC's second banking directive.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor, told at the Overseas Bankers dinner: "Passport or no passport, we cannot afford to get such a crucial matter as capital adequacy wrong. The outcome must be durable and must not place Community institutions or markets at a disadvantage

against their competitors outside the Community."

In a separate speech earlier Mr Pen Kent, associate director of the Bank, said: "We agree that in principle the risks to which banks and non-banks are exposed should be assessed in the same way but it does not follow that the amount and type of capital required for each kind of firm should be identical."

He said the Community proposals could have the perverse effect of increasing capital requirements for firms that hedged against risk, giving no incentive for the less sophisticated to improve risk management techniques.

## COMMENT

### Rosehaugh investors deserve more details

It was a day of contrast in the property sector yesterday. On the one hand there was Sir Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P&O, opining that you would be mad to issue shares on current discounts.

"Cash and not paper is what is interesting at this time," he said, explaining why any shareholders in Laing Properties tempted to jump ship would be getting cash and not P&O paper for their shares.

On the other side of town, at Rosehaugh, the thought of getting 650p cash for their shares was the stuff of dreams for shareholders. Instead, they were facing having to put up 200p in cash, as Geoffrey Bradman decided that it was existing shareholders who should bear the cost of the current malaise in the property market.

Mr Bradman would probably agree with Sir Jeffrey's "cash-is-king" philosophy. His problem is that he does not appear to be able to find any from anyone else except his shareholders. Indeed, his reason for not underwriting the £125 million rights issue is that underwriting is a waste of money.

Mr Bradman's problem is simple. He cannot easily sell properties to the institutions because they have stopped buying. He cannot sell properties to

anyone else because they will not pay the sort of institutional yields his profit margin requires, and he will not bring in an outside shareholder (a la Stanhope and Olympia & York) because the loss of independence is too high a price. So should shareholders bail Rosehaugh out?

Mr Bradman, as ever, appears to be offering good value. For 200p, a shareholder should get about 477p of assets, assuming the right is fully taken up.

But there is no mention of profits (the year-end is only five months away) or of cash flow, so vital given the group's debt burden. And still there is no sign of the secretive Mr Bradman doing anything to rationalize Rosehaugh's sprawling structure, which takes it from being one of the world's premier office developers to a house builder in Essex, via flats in the Isle of Dogs.

Mr Bradman has a superb track record. But there is no early sign of an upturn in the property market. Shareholders should exact a little more from Mr Bradman before parting with their money. Much more financial information is clearly required before the City will be happy to support the issue.

### Not out of the wood yet

The pound's continuing recovery is no reason for anyone operating in the home economy to feel complacent. To the extent that it is a separate movement, rather than the backwash of mark and dollar, sterling's short-term strength stems from market confidence that interest rates will have to keep high — and that John Major's first Budget will have to be tight — to offset the currency's potential weakness on the foreign exchanges.

The Government's overwhelming political priority is to get inflation down fast this year. The downward revision of the December rise in retail sales — which originally looked a freak — does not alter the background to that priority significantly. There are conflicting economic signals, for instance from the high street and from pay trends. In those circumstances, the Chancellor will be minded to play safe on inflation at the risk of overkill on demand.

The green Budget from the Institute for Fiscal Studies — an economic rather than environmental offering — probably reflects the Chancellor's own thinking on one unknown. Separate income taxation of man and wife threatens to be the

equivalent of a tax cut for the spending classes. At a time when the underlying budget surplus is disappearing fast, Mr Major would therefore need to produce a fiscally tight Budget by taking money out of people's pockets with net tax rises.

A weak pound would seriously undermine this anti-inflationary strategy, not so much through imported inflation as by allowing industry a cushion for inflationary pay settlements. This problem will resurface if, as expected, German interest rates rise again in the spring. The Japanese discount rate will also probably rise shortly after the February 18 election in Tokyo. Some forecasters, such as Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, think UK base rates may have to rise to 16 per cent before they fall back. This may be pessimistic.

The outcome will depend in good measure on whether France and the other EMS countries go along with Germany (quite likely) and (less likely) the US Federal Reserve starting to tighten policy again. Given that domestic monetary conditions are now pretty tight, the Chancellor has a good chance of avoiding any further rise, but only by giving 15 per cent rates a permanent look.

## Mitel spending £25m in Quebec



Mitel Corporation, the manufacturer of business telecommunications equipment, in which British Telecom has a 51 per cent holding for which it is seeking a buyer, is to spend Can\$50 million (£25 million) over the next three years to expand its semiconductor plant in Quebec. A third of the investment will be in government aid under the Canada-Quebec agreement on industrial development. Left to right at the signing yesterday are Mr David Dey, of British Telecom, Mr Robert Bonrass, Premier of Quebec, and Mr John Jarvis, president and chief executive of Mitel.

## Major 'will increase tax by £1 bn'

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, will increase total tax by a net £1 billion in the Budget next month, ending a run of nine years in which the Government has reduced the overall tax burden, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The "discretionary" increase will be intended to ensure that the economic down-

turn is long enough to bring wage and price inflation under control and reaffirm to financial markets that bringing inflation down is top priority.

The "Green Budget", produced by the IFS with Goldman Sachs, the securities house, sees £1.5 billion coming from not increasing income tax allowances in line with inflation and £250 million from higher taxation on company cars. Additional rev-

enue, probably from increased taxation of other benefits in kind, such as company houses, and bringing duty on tobacco and liquor in line with inflation, should bring the total tax increase to £2 billion.

This gross increase will be partially offset by the £500 million which the introduction of independent taxation of spouses is expected to cost the Government. Another £500 million of revenue will

be lost by holding down some indirect taxes to help keep the retail price index down.

The IFS believes that in steering a course between inflation and recession, the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre is smaller than at any time since 1980-81, and the consequences of any mistakes much greater. This, says IFS, means that there will not be room for both a cut in personal taxes and inflation.

## Racal may finance SIS diversification

By Jeremy Andrews

Racal Electronics may finance a diversification into financial information by SIS, which provides live television coverage of horse racing by satellite to 10,000 betting shops in Britain and on the Continent. SIS had been planning a share placing with institutions, but Racal's intervention may make this unnecessary.

The placing was originally intended to cut the 65 per cent

stake jointly held by the bookmakers Ladbroke, Coral and Mecca to 45 per cent under an agreement with the Racecourse Association, which manages the racetracks. Sources close to Racal said: "The placing has its genesis in the agreement with the Racecourse Association, but at the same time we are trying to finance expansion of the business."

## UTC in red as portfolio flops

By Neil Bennett

A collapse in the value of UTC Group's share portfolio has pushed the stockbroker and chartered surveying group to a loss of £397,000 in 1989 compared with pre-tax profits of £5.79 million. Its shares fell 8p to 90p.

The company has been forced to write off £5.1 million on its share investments, originally worth £8.6 million. The main casualty was Ferromet, whose shares were suspended after it reported lower-than-

expected gold reserves at its main Australian mine. There were also large share price falls for JMD Group and the Marylebone Estates Company, two other investments.

UTC's merger talks with the City & Westminster group failed last October. C&W's attempt to buy its corporate finance business also failed.

UTC first revealed the loss in December, when Mr Richard Owen and Mr Geoffrey Simmonds, the joint managing directors, resigned after a boardroom dispute, believed

to have been over whether UTC should take share stakes.

Mr Jonathan Harris, the new chairman, says that it will invest only in companies that fit into the group.

"I look at these investments and wonder what we are doing with them," he said.

UTC is paying a 1/2p final dividend, down from 6p last year. The year's total is 5p, down by half.

UTC's stockbroking business lost £20,000 after the expense of hiring a new dealing team.

## Pode hits the road

If you have a secret drink or drug problem, or have told one or two little white lies about your academic qualifications on your curriculum vitae, be warned... A former Royal Insurance fraud specialist, Adam Pode, is about to launch his own vetting agency, targeted at banks and brokers, "and anyone else who employs people for high security jobs or jobs where they will be dealing with large sums of money." Pode, aged 27, and styling himself managing director of City Investigations, already employs four ex-CID officers. One British bank has already agreed to use his services and two European ones are also on the brink of signing him up. "Arthur Young did a survey of computer personnel and found that 87 per cent of employers did not even bother to take up their references," says Pode, who adds that his company will also specialize in broking fraud risk on the London market. "Several insurance companies have already agreed to use us, including Sun Alliance and the Royal," adds Pode. When it comes to vetting City job seekers, well-connected Pode may find some lines of investigation going no further than his own family — his uncle, David Hunter, was one of the senior partners at Messel (and is still with Shearson Lehman) and his grandfather, Jock Hunter, was on the Stock Exchange committee which investigated Jim Slater.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Medal performance

No gold watch for John Coleman, senior audit partner at City accountant Moore Stephens. Instead, in recognition of 12 years of work for the Polish Seaplane Agency — a freight forwarding organization which operates between Poland and Britain — Coleman

has been presented with Poland's Silver Decoration of Merit, a rare honour. "It is really in recognition of the audit team," says the ever-moderate Coleman. "It coincides with the 50th anniversary of the first Polish instructions to Moore Stephens," he adds.

### Outside bet

When somebody told former Phillips & Drew broker Simon Rose, author of *Filthy Lucre* — a racy farce about the crooked takeover of a drinks company, — that it would never win the Booker Prize he took it as a compliment. "The less likely it is to win the Booker, the more popular it is likely to be



"Barlow Clowes — Garston Amburst — we've got to stop meeting like this."

with my potential audience," he says. Nevertheless intrigued to find out what the chances of winning the literary prize would be, Rose sent a copy to betting guru Ron Pollard, a consultant to Ladbroke. Pollard concluded that while the book is "great fun," Rose, as a first-time novelist, has no form and is thus a rank outsider. Whereas a Penelope Lively would be about 40-1 to win and 10-1 for a nomination, he would have to give Rose starting odds of 100-1 for a nomination and 250-1 to win. "I had expected the odds to be far worse," says Rose. "I might wager £5."

### Record rate?

News from BATs had analysts running for their calculators yesterday — its 75 per cent Brazilian subsidiary Souza Cruz has just reported year-end figures against a background, in December, of a 50 per cent inflation rate. According to the company that is equivalent to an annual rate of almost 13,000 per cent. A record?

## Peplow power

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, is well known for its collection of 600 or so water colours and oil paintings by Scottish artists — one of the finest such collections in private hands. The rest of the City will now have a chance to see some of its works in an exhibition of "Scottish Art since 1900" at the Barbican from Thursday — a slightly shortened version of a recent exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. And although Bill Smith, compliance officer at Robert Fleming Asset Management and art curator — "but not necessarily in that order" — is adamant that the paintings were originally bought "simply to brighten up our offices" and not as an investment — "even though it might seem dreadful for an investment banker to admit it," he says — he estimates that their value has risen 20 or 30 times during the past 10 to 15 years. "They have beaten the FT index hollow," he says, and admits that as an investment bank it was especially pleasing when last spring, an oil painting by Samuel Peplow (1871-1931) fetched £506,000 at auction, a record. "We've got 14 Peplows," Smith says. "New York researchers have decided after a study of Wall Street traders that if they want to perform better they must have nine hours' sleep. Those who do perform much better in alertness tests than these with eight or less. Seems the best reason yet for cutting the Stock Exchange day..."

Carol Leonard

## BBC joins magazine distributor

By Melinda Wittstock

Emap, the magazine and newspaper publisher, and Haymarket Publishing, Britain's largest privately owned trade paper and magazine publisher, have formed with BBC Magazines a joint venture distribution company. Called BBC Frontline, it starts trading on April 1 and will handle more than 100 magazines, representing market share of 17 per cent. It will distribute 25 of the 100 top-selling publications, including the BBC's *Radio Times*, *Emap's Smash Hits* and *Just Seventeen*, and Haymarket's *Autocar* and *Motor*.

The link-up comes over a year and a half after Emap and Haymarket formed the joint venture Frontline to distribute 65 magazines. It now distributes 100 titles — 70 from Emap and 30 from Haymarket — with a cover price value of more than £100 million.

The addition of the eight BBC titles will double the value to £200 million, catapulting the new BBC Frontline to second place in the UK consumer magazine distribution market.

"We believe that within two years, there will probably be just three principal magazine distributors in the UK. We intend to be one of them," said Mr Geoff Stott, chief executive of Frontline. Dr John Thomas, director of BBC Magazines, will be non-executive chairman of BBC Frontline.

## Marsh & McLennan

### Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1989 (Unaudited)

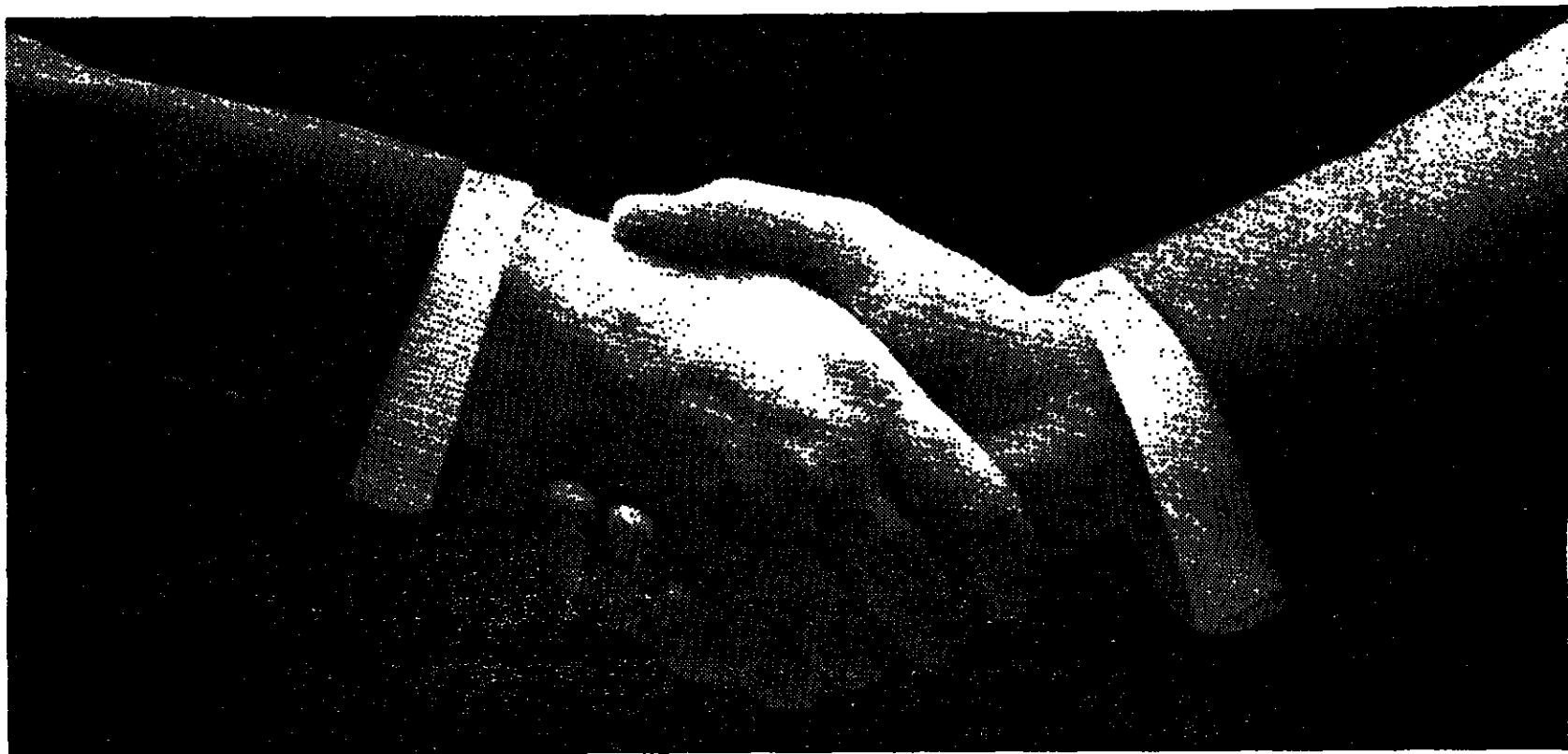
	\$ million (except per share figures)	
	1989	1988
Total Revenues	\$2,427.7	\$2,272.4
Total Expenses	1,918.2	1,757.0
Operating Income	509.5	515.4
Income Before Income Taxes	517.3	516.4
Net Income	294.9	296.3
Net Income Per Share	\$4.10	\$4.09
Dividends Paid Per Share	\$2.50	\$2.425

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# On the evening of 28th December 1989, Europe's number one computer group first saw the light of day.



When Bull and Zenith merged, the full significance of the event may have escaped you. An estimated turnover for 1989 of 6.5 billion US dollars makes Bull with Zenith Europe's leading computer group. Why not let us expand your horizons? If you're looking for a complete IT solution, Bull with Zenith has all the answers. We have the world's largest range of computers, from portables to the most powerful mainframe. And the determination to bring you the innovative solution that you won't find anywhere else. Perhaps your situation demands a PC solution. In that case, you need Zenith Data Systems, Bull's micro-computing division. Naturally, you're looking for flexibility and versatility. We can offer you 15 PC models, and they all conform to MCA, ISA and EISA standards. Naturally, you insist on only the most advanced technology. At Zenith the latest and most significant research finds its way straight into our equipment, with the minimum delay. Naturally, you recognize the importance of an extensive support network. We're completely at your service - in 17 countries with 1,000 distributors and 1,500 dealers. Working in harness with Bull and Zenith's commercial engineers, that's the third largest computing sales force in Europe. And then, there's the future. Behind Zenith is the power of Bull - 12 manufacturing bases, 14 research centres on 5 continents, 7,000 research workers and distribution in 90 countries worldwide. 50,000 people just waiting to prove to you that Bull with Zenith is Europe's Number One Computer Group - now and for a long time to come.

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# Industry under the hammer



Why is a new generation of British industry crumbling in the face of foreign competition and being sold off to property developers?  
**Tom Bower** investigates the ghost factories

For 30 years, British manufacturers have been urged to invest in new machinery, introduce new and reliable designs, and seek wider markets by exporting.

During the 1970s two key industries — cars and domestic electronics — withered because of over-innovation, while the rest of the economy was ignored. Both management and the trade unions underestimated foreign competition. By the time Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister, observers recognized that a chasm had developed between British manufacturers and their competitors.

Foreign companies boasted better design skills, sophisticated long-term planning, in-house training schemes, erudite marketing, reliable customer service and continuous investment in new machinery. The Thatcher Government aimed to see that gap narrow.

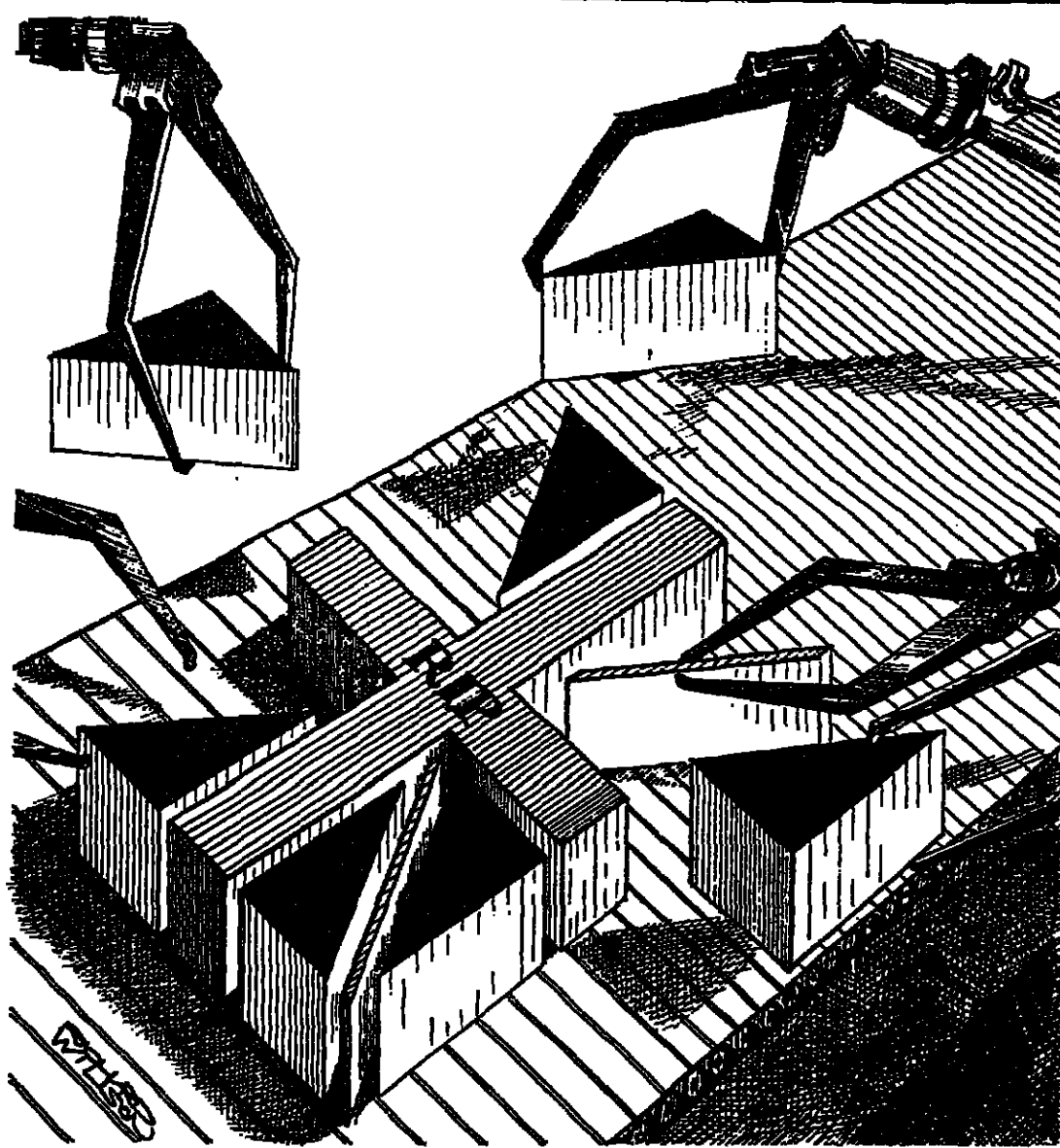
Yet a tour through Britain's factories making a wide range of the products which are now vulnerable to increased imports is a depressing experience. Almost all the new machinery in many industries is imported, the under-

standing that exports are essential to survival is missing, and there is insufficient innovation.

A CBI survey forecast published last month reported that only four out of 10 companies expect to spend more on innovation this year. Although John Banham, the director-general of the CBI, welcomed the report as "encouraging confirmation that British business recognizes the need to invest in innovation", his own statistics suggest the contrary. Only two months ago at the CBI national conference, he voiced his alarm about Britain's "massive investment gap with West Germany".

Those industrialists trying to stem the tide and rebuild are depressed that others give up the fight and shut their factories to reap windfall profits from property speculation. Profiting from property has hastened the contraction of Britain's industry, which bodes ill for the trade deficit.

Closing the Stonehill furniture factory, in north London, is the approach taken by Tony Fox and his fellow directors. They hope that their 370 staff, some with more than 30 years' continuous service in the company, accept their offer of redundancy and



depart swiftly and quietly. After their departure, a profit can be expected to be made from the sale of the land where the factory is sited.

Their strategy will add to Britain's existing £1 billion trade deficit in furniture and further reduce the nation's industrial base. The 34-year-old accountant, whose previous expertise was a seven-year stint as a computer software salesman in Hong Kong, seems unmoved by that prospect. In the Thatcher decade, manufacturers have allowed property dealers to earn the biggest profits.

Stonehill has been making cabinet furniture on the Lea Valley trading estate for more than 40 years. Its fortunes began to decline at the end of the 1970s. By 1987, its founders had accumulated a £2.5 million trading overdraft and other debts. The prospect of increasing losses forced the sale of Stonehill to James Buchanan who, according to Fox, is a Cuessey-based businessman. Buchanan paid about £850,000 for a 51 per cent stake and paid off the debts. Included with the factory, Buchanan received seven acres of land, which was then worth about £300,000 per acre.

Under Fox's management over the next two years, Stonehill improved its quality of furniture, reduced its 600 workforce by nearly half and turned from loss to profit. The company's annual report, published in September 1989, was cautiously optimistic.

Yet two months later, Fox told his employees that "we do not consider it viable to continue the furniture business on this site". Between constant meetings, the harassed executive explained that orders for Stonehill's furniture had evaporated in the summer while the factory was "antiquated in the extreme". During its tenure, Stonehill was not re-equipped with new machinery. What already existed was reorganized. The new directors did, however, progressively purchase a further 21 acres of land in the trading estate. Their land holding is estimated to now be worth £30 million.

Fox will not quit the furniture business, however. Instead, he intends to begin "badge engineering", making Stonehill's £13 million annual trade depend, in part,

upon imports with the the company's brand name attached.

Many of the manufacturers who have recently closed factories without profiting from property sales blame the Thatcher administration for their calamity. That explanation is in part self-delusory but it is particularly prevalent among the knitwear manufacturers in Leicester.

Stuart Mensley has just fired 180 employees and sold his premises near the city centre; his legacy is 100 computer-guided West German knitting machines which cost £10,000 each. "I won't be able to even give them away now," he says. "I invested £2 million in this business and we've been killed off." Mensley blames low-priced imports, exchange rates and high interest charges. Only the two successive mild winters are not the direct fault of the Government. The accumulation of problems has bankrupted many of his competitors.

According to Basil Feldman, of the "Better Made in Britain" campaign, Britain's trade deficit in 1989 of textiles and clothing reached £3.5 billion. "It is effectively the second biggest deficit

## The unwashed, C registration Jaguar parked outside his ghostly factory is fair testimony to his personal fortunes: 'I paid £24,000 for it, but I doubt that I'll ever afford a new car again'

after cars," he says. "The cause is design, quality and price."

Textiles employ 485,000 workers and in the past 10 years 150,000 jobs have been lost. Leicester alone has lost 20 per cent of its textile jobs in the past two years.

In the Commons this month, John Redwood, the minister responsible for corporate affairs at the DTI, said he would "fight like a tiger" against unfair trade practices in the industry. It was recognized that he was referring to subsidized dumping.

Yet Redwood refused to promise to maintain a key protectionist measure which the knitwear and textile industry claims it desperately needs — the multi-fibre agreement. Free trade "must be a good thing" for Britain, he added.

The Mensley family's unwashed, C registration Jaguar XJS parked outside his ghostly factory is fair testimony to his personal fortunes: "I paid £24,000 for it, but I doubt that I'll ever afford a new car again."

The family members are disciples and beneficiaries of Thatcherism. They hit record profits in 1986 and decided to buy another factory. Their troubles began soon after. Despite full order books and record turnover, profit margins dropped to compete with knitwear flooding in from Turkey, Romania, Tunisia and the Far East. "The Government is not interested in the textile industry," Mensley says. "They think cheaper imports will reduce the cost of living. But in fact, the retailer just takes a larger profit."

Mensley, who will continue in business from other premises, admits that he can compete on price with some imports but has failed to respond to the competition. "In the last year I was monitoring along on the boom, I just didn't think about the downturn," he says.

Like his competitors, Mensley spurred smaller orders and did not diversify. His exports, for which in 1987 he received an award, were insufficient to protect his dream. France, for example, relies almost entirely upon imported knitwear, but British sales there are paltry compared with those from West Germany and Italy. Unlike his competitors, Mensley does export a limited amount to France but admits that the past exchange rate made the French market "too difficult. It's such a big country."

The success of the high-wage

knitwear manufacturers in West Germany significantly undermines some of Mensley's explanations for his financial plight. According to a study of knitwear imports between 1974-85 by Dr Ann Morgan for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, German manufacturers long ago shunned the cheaper end of the market and "made rapid headway as a supplier of quality clothing". Morgan discovered that while "price, style, and delivery and quality in that order" were British retailers' general reasons for imports, the critical factors were style and quality. Mensley agrees that "German workers are more capable and better trained to produce higher quality garments".

The comparatively decreasing skills of British workers compared not only with those in western Europe, Korea and North Africa was highlighted last week by John Banham of the CBI, who said that Britain "cannot muddle through the 1990s with a low-skill, high-expectation workforce".

Mensley agrees, but cannot find skilled workers and unlike his bankrupt competitors, he did invest in design.

In 1985, Robin Garland, the chairman of the Scottish Heritable Trust, which in 1988 reported a £100 million turnover, bought RKT, a textile company with 600 employees. Its knitwear branch, Srettons, was a model for success. Equipped with modern machinery and a dedicated workforce, it exported 60 per cent of its output. In the cause of "rationalization" and despite warnings that the workforce would refuse to move, Garland closed Srettons' factory and "consolidated" production on another site. When the workforce disappeared, the business's fortunes rapidly declined. To some observers, Garland however seemed relatively unconcerned. RKT's principal attraction was its substantial property portfolio which by 1989 had been already partially sold.

Just before Christmas, Srettons labour force were given their redundancy pay. The company was closed. The last of RKT's properties was sold at a considerable profit. British industry irretrievably shrank again.

### TOMORROW

The fight to win back lost markets

### STOCK MARKET

## Euro Disneyland leaps close to £11

Euro Disneyland, the Paris theme park launched on European stock markets in October, leapt 120p to £10.93 in London as American investors were allowed to buy the shares for the first time.

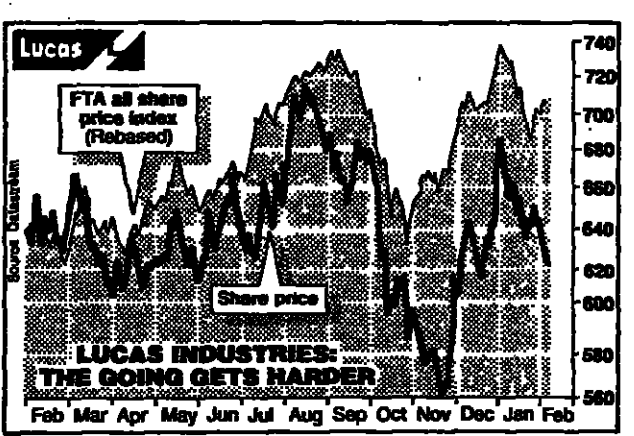
At the float, there was a 90-day prohibition on buying by Americans, with Walt Disney of the United States retaining a 49 per cent holding. The ban has been lifted, but there were few signs yesterday that the 85,000 British shareholders who were allocated shares were tempted by the soaring price to sell out.

One source close to the company said: "It's very much UK-driven. The share price rose 30p in London before the French followed through. There hasn't been much volume because there are very few sellers around."

The rest of the equity was suffering from an acute bout of Monday morning blues, with investors sticking to the sidelines and share prices left to their own devices. Selling pressure proved minimal as turnover fell to just 377 million shares, with the FT-SE 100 index closing down 6.7 points at 2,348.4. The FT index of 30 shares fell 5.4 to 1,861.0.

Government securities were left nursing falls stretching to £1, worried by claims that the Bank of England might resume sales of gilts because of the lower-than-expected Budget surplus.

The final retail sales for December, showing a rise of



1.9 per cent, compared with the previous figure of 2.1 per cent, confirmed that the Government's measures to curb spending were working, but failed to cheer investors.

They were more upset by news of a heavily discounted £125 million rights issue from

Talk of further stakebuilding lifted Tate & Lyle 5p to 319p as almost 3 million shares were traded. Last week, the group announced that ADM, the American corn and syrup producer, had built up a stake of almost 5 per cent. Dealers reckon ADM may be trying to add to its holding.

Roscaugh, the property developer, which tumbled 87p to 378p. The shares being issued at 200p each are not being underwritten. Net assets have been calculated at £480 mil-

lion, against borrowings of £410 million.

In the past year, the group's share price has fallen from a peak of 700p amid increasing talk that it could soon find itself on the receiving end of an unwanted bid.

Elsewhere in the property sector, Laing Properties kept 88p to 652p after the joint offer of 650p a share from P&O and Chelsfield, the private property group. The terms value Laing at £441 million. Dealers have been braced for a Laing bid for some time. They expected Chelsfield to make the move on its own because it owns 15 per cent and was reviewing its options.

But the rest of the property sector remained overshadowed by the news from Roscaugh. Falls were seen in Allied London, 2p to 110p, British Land, 4p to 398p,

unopposed by Bell Resources. The Dallhold companies had also "settled the amount of the Bell Resources claim on terms acceptable to both parties," Bell Resources said.

The two remaining positions against Bond Corp, returnable on March 21, concern claims of Aus\$24.16 million and Aus\$3.76 million.

Bond Media is under threat on another front, with a syndicate of banks demanding repayment of an Aus\$385 million debt.

Elsewhere, American creditors of Bond Corp's Swan Brewery Co are seeking an order to liquidate the group's US brewing interests.

Clayton Properties, 3p to 221p, London & Edinburgh Trust, 5p to 136p, Priest Marrian, 35p to 223p, Slough Estates, 3p to 309p, and Trafford Park, 6p to 76p.

The only companies to make headway were Speyhawk, 4p to 353p, Land Securities, 5p to 207p, and Hammerson A, 10p to 799p.

Latest sale speculation surrounding Hanson was that its 48 per cent stake in Renison had been split 43 per cent to CRA and 5 per cent to MIM Holdings. Renison was unchanged at 428p while Hanson rose 3p to 229p.

Secarior Group was a nervous market, falling 18p to 813p ahead of figures due today. Last week, there were claims it was about to float, or even sell, its 40 per cent stake in Celtel. British Telecom, unchanged at 310p, owns the other 60 per cent of Celtel.

Highland Distilleries slipped 1p to 246p. But the shares have been nudging towards their peak of 261p, helped by revised talk of a bid. Hiram Walker tried and failed. Dealers reckon the Japanese, with their liking for a drama, have been big buyers of the shares.

Chemistry International, the specialist chemicals group, jumped 11p to 428p after rejecting the 400p share offer from rival MTM.

Hartwell, the Ford motor

dealer which is fighting off an offer from the Sandi-backed Jameel Group, firmed 2p to 146p. The speculators are hoping Jameel will come back with a higher offer.

Lucas Industries continued to reel from Friday's profits downgrade by Cazenove, the broker. Kleinwort Benson, a rival broker, has also taken a red pencil to its profit estimates, cutting the figures for the current year by £8 million to £197 million and for next year by £10 million to £215 million. Last year.

The company blames the reduction on the downturn in the British automotive industry, including the commercial vehicle market, which will make the going tougher for Lucas. But the Lucas share price managed to halve a 20p fall to close 10p down at 616p.

The clearing banks lost ground on concerns about the impact of receiving less tax relief for Third World debt than they had expected. Some say the move by the Inland Revenue could cost the banks as much as £1 billion. Prices managed to close above their worst, with falls seen in Barclays Bank, 4p to 582p, Lloyds Bank, 6p to 300p, after 296p, Midland Bank, 7p to 375p, and National Westminster Bank, 2p to 357p.

The banks' dividend season starts this month and is expected to see at least two of them dive into the red because of bad debt provisions.

Michael Clark

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Making manufacturing an investment priority

From Mr H. Morrogh

Sir, Tim Congdon (January 30) gives figures to show how Conservative governments, since 1979, have encouraged growth of private investment with a reduction in public investment so that by 1989 the former is 87 per cent of total investment. He concludes that it is still too early to judge whether these changes will have any enduring effect on performance.

Such caution may be justified in view of the figures showing the relative decline in growth of investment in manufacturing compared with the services sector over the same period (Andrew Glyn, *Financial Times*, November 8, 1989). It was remarked that distribution and financial services, in financing the purchase of consumer and capital goods, facilitate the sale of manufactured goods, but that the proportion of such goods produced outside the UK will be at an unsustainable level unless the trends in investment and in manufacturing performance are reversed.

John Wells, in the book *The Restructuring of the UK Economy*, notes: "What the present

substantial manufacturing and current-account deficits signal is that the rump of UK manufacturing production which remains at the end of the Thatcher decade may well be leaner, fitter, have a higher level of labour productivity and be more profitable than before — but it is totally inadequate in terms of the volume of its internationally competitive capacity."

Trade in manufactured goods is central to Britain's economic future and to the well-being of its inhabitants. If manufacturing industry was more competitive in efficiency and volume perhaps more could be allocated to public spending — transport and the NHS for instance.

Yet twice in the last few days we read in your columns that leisure activities are the best current investment (apropos the proposed Rank rights issue). Many are becoming alarmed by the ubiquity of huge retailing developments and leisure facilities and wonder whether these considerable investments are being matched by investment in manufacturing — many doubt it. Congdon refers to Keynes's

recommendation of comprehensive socialization of investment to give the Government power to combat the trade cycle. It was tried and it failed in the post-war years but manifestly privatization has not yet succeeded.

One wonders what steps this government or its successor might contemplate to encourage greater investment in manufacturing.

Clearly the real need is to increase home-produced supply rather than to reduce demand by taxation. If the commitment is totally to market forces and privatization, is there anything a government can do other than regulate the misery bearing in mind that many areas of manufacturing appropriate to the economy do not yet exist or have been forced out of existence? It would be of comfort if the political parties could address this vital issue.

Yours faithfully,  
H. MORROGH,  
Cedarwood,  
Penn Lane,  
Tanworth-in-Arden,  
Warwickshire,  
B94 5HH,  
January 30.

#### Ashcroft defended

From Mr Stephen J Wilkins

Sir, I regret that your correspondent John Stevens (January 30) when criticising Mr Ashcroft of Coloroll seemed to typify this country's attitude to entrepreneurs and that is "when they stumble let's make sure we well and truly kick them down."

Mr Stevens seems to forget that in the early eighties Mr Ashcroft drove a washed out wallpaper manufacturer in Nelson, Lancashire, to the market success that Coloroll became. He seems also to forget that the shareholders probably purchased at well below the share's peak and in any event "shares can go up as

well as down."

Additionally, he forgets that Mr Ashcroft has worked, risked and innovated for his salary to far greater an extent than the rest of us and finally your correspondent forgets that this country will do better if our successful companies are supported not just during their meteoric rise but more importantly when they falter.

Perhaps if Mr Stevens and those like him purchased a few yards of Mr Ashcroft's carpet the company's fortunes would more rapidly improve. Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN J WILKINS,  
Glendale Business Centre,  
Welsh Rd,  
Deeside,  
Chwyd.

#### A damaging deal

From Mr A. G. Bracken

Sir, I am appalled at the decision to award the KIL-lingholme Power Station contract to Siemens.

Once again British manufacturers have been "kicked in the teeth" by the decision to buy from an overseas supplier.

When will those who award such contracts realise the immense damage done to the prestige of British manufacturing in general, when it is so blatantly advertised to the world that our domestic products are apparently so unsuitable?

What makes this decision even more galling is the certain knowledge that a similar German contract would have been awarded to a German company — whatever the price.

Robert Malpas should be immediately consigned to that same dole queue, to which he has, by this decision, condemned yet more British craftsmen.

This decision is a national disgrace. Yours faithfully,  
A. G. BRACKEN,  
Lyme Cottages,  
Well Lane,  
Gullborough,  
Northants,  
February 2 1990.

#### Good book guide

From Mr Lynn D Ashley

Sir, On Monday last, in the City Diary, you had a paragraph mentioning the chapel BP Exploration have inherited in taking over the building formerly occupied by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Now, three days later, BP Exploration have announced the finding of a rich new oilfield off the Dorset coast.

Coincidence, or the fulfilment of prophecy? "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer... saith the Lord." (*Isaiah*

65, verse 24).

Yours faithfully,  
LYNN D ASHLEY,  
67 Lima Court,  
Bath Road,  
Reading,  
January 31.

#### Job security

From Mr Daljit Sehrai

Sir, Mr Nigel Lawson's £200,000 a year job as part-time consultant to Barclays Bank is unassailable. Yours faithfully,  
DALJIT SEHRAI,  
Reform Club  
SW1.

## Bell calls off wind-up bids against three Bond firms

From David Tweed, Sydney

Bell Resources yesterday abandoned a wind-up bid against Bond Media, Mr Alan Bond's television arm, but kept in place two liquidation petitions against its parent company, Bond Corporation Holdings.

Bell Resources also withdrew wind-up petitions against Dallhold Investments Pty, Mr Bond's private company, and Dallhold Nickel Management Pty, a subsidiary, in out-of-court settlements.

The petitions were lodged in the Supreme Court of Western Australia on Friday by Bell Resources, which is a 60 per cent-owned subsidiary of

Bond Corporation but whose board is now controlled by Mr John Spelvin's Adelaide Steamship Co and an independent chairman, Mr Geoff Hill, a Sydney investment banker.

Bell Resources had claimed the company had failed to meet repayment demands made last month.

The claims on Bond Media and the Dallhold companies showed "transportation costs" totalling about Aus\$1.07 million. Bell Resources said Bond Media had "paid an amount" in settlement of Bell Resources' dispute with the company — and the petition was dismissed after a Bond Corporation application was

unopposed by Bell Resources. The Dallhold companies had also "settled the amount of the Bell Resources claim on terms acceptable to both parties," Bell Resources said.

The two remaining positions against Bond Corp, returnable on March 21, concern claims of Aus\$24.16 million and Aus\$3.76 million.

Bond Media is under threat on another front, with a syndicate of banks demanding repayment of an Aus\$385 million debt.

Elsewhere, American creditors of Bond Corp's Swan Brewery Co are seeking an order to liquidate the group's US brewing interests.

## Pipe repairs could add to price of oil

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which is co-owned by BP, urgently needs repairs which could cost hundreds of millions of dollars and add to the world oil price, the company which runs it says.

Aleaska Pipeline Service Co, the seven-member oil consortium which operates the 800-mile line from the Arctic Ocean to the port of Valdez, said replacing just one 8.9-mile stretch would cost up to \$200 million (£118 million).

Mr George Jurkovich, of Aleaska, said the cost of repairs would increase the cost of North Slope oil but he could not say by how much. He could not confirm or deny reports that the five-year bill

for repairing corrosion on the line, which transports a quarter of US-produced crude, could be \$1.5 billion.

Last year, the companies which own the pipeline won regulatory approval for tariffs that raised the charge for transporting oil through the line by 86 cents to \$3.89 a barrel. The increase included provisions for rust repair.

Aleaska blamed poor rust-proofing tape and other coatings for failing to protect the steel pipe. But the state government has launched its own inquiry to see if poor maintenance is partly to blame for the widespread rust and the reduction in state royalties it will cause.





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Business







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ICE-LSR Group		Crude oil prices ended last week after an increasing week. Gasoline went very firm. Other products sold train activity which followed the futures markets.	
CRUDE OIL (Assessed) (BBL. FOB)		ICE FCB	
Brant Pipe	22.50	-05	Gas Oil
15 day Apr	20.50		Feb
15 day May	19.50		Apr
15 day Jun	18.50		May
WTI Apr	22.15	-05	Jun
PRODUCTS (Bbl. FOB)		BRENT	
Spot Crk. East	20.00		Jul
Crk. East	23.50	+01	Aug
Gasol. EEC	+1	171-173	Vol
Non 100	+1	169-170	Vol
Non 110 Mar	+1	167-168	+1
Non 133 Low	+1	50-61	
3.5 Fuel Oil	+1	180-181	
Naphtha			
SPRINK		FUTURES	
GM Freight	180-190	Low	Closes 18100
Feb 90	1570-1590	Low	Closes 15850
Mar 90	1560-1580	Low	Closes 15650
Apr 90	1505-1527	Low	Closes 15055
May 90	1485-1500	Low	Closes 14850
Jun 90	1370-1388	Low	Closes 13700
Non 133 Low	+1	50-61	Closes 13700
Dry cargo index	1019	-15	

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 88.4 (day's range 88.4-90.5).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for February 5				
	Rate	Close	1 month	3 months
New Yrk	1.8005	1.8050-1.8040	0.87-0.85pc	2.70-2.68pc
Montr	2.0084-2.0191	2.0100-2.0090	0.87-0.85pc	2.70-2.68pc
Amsterd	3.1891-3.2048	3.1891-3.1927	11%-11pc	6%-6pc
Frankf		50.04-50.04	11%-11pc	6%-6pc
Coppenh	10.5210-10.5210	10.5210-10.5450	2%-2pc	7%-10pc
Stockh	1.0088-1.0088	1.0072-1.0082	32-37pc	80-100pc
Oslo	1.0088-1.0088	1.0072-1.0082	32-37pc	80-100pc
Lisbon	240.01-240.01	240.00-250.00	3-4pc	100-100pc
Madrid	182.00-182.00	182.00-183.01	8-9pc	9pc
Paris	210.01-210.01	210.00-210.00	8-9pc	9pc
Oat	10.9300-10.9301	10.9400-10.9378	9%-2pc	9%-1pc
Brussels	2.6100-2.6212	2.6100-2.6248	9%-9pc	9%-9pc
Switzerl	10.5210-10.5210	10.5210-10.5210	9%-9pc	9%-9pc
Tokyo	240.00-240.00	240.00-240.00	11%-11pc	6%-6pc
Vienna	2.5000-2.5000	2.5000-2.5118	11%-11pc	20%-20pc
Zurich	2.5000-2.5000	2.5000-2.5118	11%-11pc	20%-20pc
Premium = pc. Discount = da.				

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	\$121.37-320.91
Australia dollar	\$1.22-1.23
Bahian dollar	0.8330-0.8410
Brazil cruzeiro	50-50.0000
Canada dollar	0.75-0.75
French franc	6.55-6.55
Hong Kong dollar	13.50-13.50
Indian rupee	25.00-25.00
Japanese yen	160.00-160.00
Malaysian ringgit	4.0000-4.0000
Mexican peso	4.0000-4.0000
Norwegian krone	2.0000-2.0000
Saudi Arabian riyal	0.3015-0.3015
Singapore dollar	3.1547-3.1547
South African rand	0.6667-0.6667
S Africa rand (cont)	0.6667-0.6667
U.S. dollar	0.71-0.72

Source: Reuters. Rates supplied by Reuters.

Spain	1.5825-1.5830	Switzerland	0.4890-0.4710	Italy	1.2450-1.2540
Sweden	0.4725-0.4735	UK Germany	1.5755-1.5785	Belgium (Cont)	35.91-35.95
Thailand	1.5835-1.5855	USA	1.4580-1.4590	Bong Kong	7.9755-7.9105
Malaysia	2.5850-2.5860	Netherlands	1.5855-1.5905	Portugal	1.5755-1.5745
Australia	1.3071-1.3089	France	0.5890-0.5950	Spain	108.16-108.99
Canada	1.1890-1.1930	Japan	145.50-145.60	Austria	11.76-11.79
India	n/a				
Germany	0.4725-0.4715				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Excl.

Rate Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hse 15%		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Overnight High 15 Low 14	Week Rate: 14%	Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Thursday rates (Discount %)			8 1/2-7 1/2	8 1/2-8	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2
1 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	3 mth - 14 1/2	Deutsche Mark	9-7 1/2	8 1/2-8	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2
2 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	6 mth - 14 1/2	French Franc	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
3 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	9 mth - 14 1/2	Swiss Franc	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2
4 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	12 mth - 14 1/2	Call 10-9	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
5 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	15 mth - 14 1/2	Call 8 1/2-6 1/2				
6 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	18 mth - 14 1/2					
7 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	21 mth - 14 1/2					
8 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	24 mth - 14 1/2					
9 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	27 mth - 14 1/2					
10 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	30 mth - 14 1/2					
11 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	33 mth - 14 1/2					
12 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	36 mth - 14 1/2					
13 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	39 mth - 14 1/2					
14 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	42 mth - 14 1/2					
15 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	45 mth - 14 1/2					
16 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	48 mth - 14 1/2					
17 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	51 mth - 14 1/2					
18 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	54 mth - 14 1/2					
19 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	57 mth - 14 1/2					
20 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	60 mth - 14 1/2					
21 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	63 mth - 14 1/2					
22 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	66 mth - 14 1/2					
23 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	69 mth - 14 1/2					
24 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	72 mth - 14 1/2					
25 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	75 mth - 14 1/2					
26 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	78 mth - 14 1/2					
27 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	81 mth - 14 1/2					
28 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	84 mth - 14 1/2					
29 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	87 mth - 14 1/2					
30 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	90 mth - 14 1/2					
31 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	93 mth - 14 1/2					
32 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	96 mth - 14 1/2					
33 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	99 mth - 14 1/2					
34 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	102 mth - 14 1/2					
35 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	105 mth - 14 1/2					
36 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	108 mth - 14 1/2					
37 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	111 mth - 14 1/2					
38 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	114 mth - 14 1/2					
39 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	117 mth - 14 1/2					
40 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	120 mth - 14 1/2					
41 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	123 mth - 14 1/2					
42 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	126 mth - 14 1/2					
43 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	129 mth - 14 1/2					
44 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	132 mth - 14 1/2					
45 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	135 mth - 14 1/2					
46 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	138 mth - 14 1/2					
47 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	141 mth - 14 1/2					
48 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	144 mth - 14 1/2					
49 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	147 mth - 14 1/2					
50 mth 14 1/2-14 1/2	150 mth - 14 1/2					

[illegible]

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
<b>FT-GE 100</b>						<b>Freddie Mac ARM 5280</b>					
Mar 90	2380.0	2391.0	2387.0	2390.0	2397	Three month SCU					
Mar 90	2390.0	2391.0	2387.0	2390.0	2397	Jun 90	93.81	93.91	93.80	93.85	105
<b>Three Month Sterling</b>						<b>US Treasury Bond</b>					
Mar 90	93.02	93.02	93.00	93.00	5428	10-14	95-14	95-14	95-14	2095	
Mar 90	93.02	93.02	93.00	93.00	5428	<b>Long GM</b>	87-08	87-08	87-08	87-08	177
<b>Three Month Eurodollar</b>						<b>Japanese Govt Bond</b>					
Mar 90	91.81	91.81	91.82	91.82	1414	Mar 90	97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00	4390
Mar 90	91.81	91.81	91.82	91.82	1414	<b>Governor Govt Bond</b>					
<b>Three Month Euro DM</b>						Mar 90	98.13	98.13	98.13	98.13	948
Mar 90	91.81	91.81	91.82	91.82	4896						
Mar 90	91.81	91.82	91.84	91.84	1857						

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
day's to firm in		Official prices/volumes per month		Rushid Waite	
CINERS		(Q/tonne)		3 month	Year
COCOA					
Feb 19-818	Dec 594-563	Copper (Ode)	1,338.0-1,320.0	1,347.0-1,340.0	340/26
May 530-829	Mar 705-704	Lead	425.50-426.00	415.00-416.00	81/50
Jul 516-717	Feb 718-717	Zinc	1,345.0-1,347.0	1,320.0-1,320.0	85/50
Sep 681-960	Nov 5217	Zinc Sp (Ode)	1,345.0-1,347.0	1,320.0-1,320.0	85/50
Feb 565-565	Aug 565-565	Aluminium (H)	6210-6220	1,320.0-1,320.0	1,425/50
Nov 577-578	Nov 641-640	Zinc Sp (Ode)	1,345.0-1,347.0	1,320.0-1,320.0	85/50
Jul 516-717	Mar 705-704	Nickel	1,433.0-1,434.0	1,450.0-1,451.0	350/26
Sep 681-960	Nov 5217	Nickel	1,433.0-1,434.0	1,450.0-1,451.0	350/26
Feb 565-565	Aug 565-565	7 Cents per Troy oz. (5 per tonne)	6475-6480	1,324/5	1,324/5
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01-481 1066

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

CLEVELAND  
DIRECT SERVICES

In response to compulsory competitive tendering the Council has formulated a policy of creating direct service organisations (DSOs) for each activity. These DSOs are independent of client departments and the DSO Managers report direct to the Chief Executive and Treasurer and the DSO Board of Management. As part of this restructuring a number of key positions are now available to support the Cleaning Services Manager and the Ground Maintenance Manager.

## CLEANING SERVICES DSO

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

Salary Package : Circa £20,000 (incl. PRP)

The prime responsibility of the Operations Manager will be to assist in the direction and management of the Cleaning Services DSO. You will need to demonstrate a track record of team leadership and senior managerial level experience gained within the cleaning industry. You should be capable of the day-to-day management of the current cleaning function and the allocation of resources to obtain maximum efficiency. Sound practical experience of budgetary control is required, as is the ability to communicate at all levels.

## ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Salary Package : Circa £20,000 (incl. PRP)

Reporting to the County Cleaning Services Manager you will be required to lead the DSO's administrative support group. Whilst having overall responsibility for the usual administrative functions, you will ensure the maintenance of all statistical and financial systems. Possession of an appropriate qualification would be an advantage though not essential. However, you must be able to demonstrate proven ability in administration management.

## CONTRACTS MANAGERS (4 posts)

Salary Package : Circa £15,000 or £17,000 (incl. PRP)

Applications to the above positions are invited from suitably qualified individuals. You must have a thorough knowledge of the cleaning industry gained in a multi-site environment. Reporting to the Operations Manager, you will be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of cleaning standards through adherence to client specification. You will be responsible for a team of Area and Site Supervisors, therefore good communication skills are essential.

(For informal discussions on the above posts please ring Gerry Lawson, DSO Manager, on 0642 - 248155 Ext. 3103).

## GROUND MAINTENANCE DSO

## ASSISTANT DSO MANAGER

Salary Package : Circa £20,000 (incl. PRP)

Reporting to the County Grounds Maintenance Manager you will be responsible for assisting in the development and operational management of the Ground Maintenance DSO. Specific responsibilities will be costings, estimating, recovery, quality control and liaison with client departments. You should have sound management and leadership abilities, be able to work under pressure and possess a good knowledge of computer applications.

(For informal discussion on the above post please ring Derek Lavender, DSO Manager, on 0642 - 22271).

These are outstanding opportunities for professionals to make a significant contribution to the delivery of quality services in the public sector with success judged against commercial objectives.

- essential user car allowances or car lease scheme.
- authorised telephone allowances.
- general relocation package.
- good conditions of service.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the County Director of Personnel Services, Gurney House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 1JB. (Telephone 248155 Ext. 3225). The closing date is 28th February, 1990.

We are working towards equality for women, black people and people with disabilities. Job sharing arrangements will be considered and all applicants who have the support of the Displacement Resettlement Officer will be granted an interview.

Cleveland  
County Council

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ITECS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The recently formed National Association of Information Technology Centres (NAI Ltd.) is to appoint a Chief Executive - salary circa £20,000.

Information Technology Centres (ITECs) were established as a result of the 1981 Information Technology Act. Between 1982 and 1985, 176 Centres were set up throughout the UK, funded jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Training Agency and a variety of local sponsors drawn from large national companies, local authorities and charities. The NAI has spent the past three years establishing itself as the largest IT training network in the UK and has the capacity to train 100,000 people per year on state-of-the-art hardware and software.

The Chief Executive will have overall responsibility to the NAI Executive Committee for the administration of the Association and its Committees and will be expected to represent the Association at all levels including Government, national examining bodies, national commercial organisations, the newly formed Information Technology Industry Lead Body (ITILB) and Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs).

Applications for this challenging and rewarding post are invited from those people who have an established track record within a managerial IT environment and are able to communicate effectively with members and customers of the NAI at all levels. A necessary requirement will be an ability to promote growth in the membership of the NAI and to motivate and lead a small headquarters staff, which the appointee will be instrumental in setting up.

The Association is an equal opportunities employer.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from Mr. M. McNally, Vice Chairman, National Association of ITECs, North Leicestershire ITEC, 1a Granby Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3DU.

Closing Date: Wednesday 28th February 1990.

BOROUGH  
SECRETARY'SMinority Group  
Policy Assistant

£13,389-£14,184 inc

Due to be regraded to £14,682-£15,546 inc

The Members Support Unit has been organised to provide an effective support service to Members. Under the overall direction of the Unit Co-ordinator, the unit is structured to provide separate facilities for the Majority and Minority Groups of the Council. The Minority Group Secretariat comprises the Minority Policy Assistant and a Members Personal Assistant (part-time).

We are now looking for someone to work closely with the Leader of the Opposition and to carry out research and the administrative functions for the Conservative Minority Group. This calls for a thorough knowledge of the roles of local and central government, an awareness of the major issues currently facing local government and a commitment to the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Because of under-representation in this area, applications from black people and people with disabilities are particularly welcome. Ref: SEC9.

For an application form and job details please contact: Borough Secretary's Staffing Section, Room 423, Civic Buildings, Town Hall, Exeter, Devon EX1 1JL. Telephone: 01-695 6000 ext. 3308/9. Please quote appropriate reference.

Closing date: 16th February 1990.

**Equal Opportunities**  
Applications are welcome from all people regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion. We expect all our employees to have an understanding of and commitment to our equal opportunities policies.

**Benefits**  
We offer job share, flexible working hours and car leasing on many posts - details will be sent with application forms.

**Lewisham**

## PUBLIC FINANCE

FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
MERSEYSIDE POLICE SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

The complete range of financial services for the Merseyside Police Force and Authority is provided by Knowsley Borough Council in the form of a dedicated finance Unit based in Mersey Court, a highly prestigious office development in the commercial centre of Liverpool. A newly created position of

## PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

Salary up to £18,225 plus incentives Ref: FF/324

The successful candidate will determine the short and long term financial management requirements of the Merseyside Police Force, in consultation with Senior Officers of the Force, and to implement these systems under the supervision of the Chief Accountant.

In addition, the Project Accountant will be expected to develop the training of accounting staff in the use of computers, and to develop a range of specialist packages to help with the preparation and monitoring of the Budget. The Project Accountant will also assist the Chief Accountant in the detailed preparation of the Police Authority's Budget and Financial Accounts.

For an informal discussion please contact: John Raby (Assistant Treasurer) or Vince Savage (Chief Accountant) on 051 236 4748. Starting salaries for the positions will depend on qualifications and experience. We can offer you a generous benefits package including:

- excellent salary
- 35 hour week
- good working conditions and modern office accommodation
- flexitime
- a generous and flexible relocation package

also the opportunity for personal development and further advancement within a large progressive finance department.

Closing date: 15th February, 1990. Application forms and an information pack can be obtained from: Head of Personnel Services, Municipal Buildings, Rhydydd, Merseyside, L26 9LX. Tel: 051-443 2638 (24hrs).

All posts are open to both male and female applicants. Carveys will disqualify. Please quote reference numbers.

**KNOWSLEY**

Clerk of the County Council

## Research Officer

£12,960-£15,810 p.a.

Ref: CCE/CON/02/123

Required to assist the Leader of the Group and Conservative Members with their everyday work on the County Council. Essential to this post is the ability to gather, analyse and disseminate information accurately and within strict time limits. You must be able to demonstrate your political awareness, research skills and an appreciation of local government business and organisation. A flexible approach to working methods, and experience with computers in an information environment would be an advantage.

For an informal chat please ring John Hilton on Nottm (0602) 823823.

## Assistant Research Officer

£11,667-£13,824 p.a.

Ref: CCE/LAB/04/123

This post assists the Research Officer (Majority) Labour Group in providing a research and information service to the Leader of the County Council and all other Labour Members. Duties will include:

- Preparing briefing notes, on a wide variety of issues;
  - Producing reports;
  - Interpreting and presenting statistical data.
- You should ideally be a graduate and have the following attributes:
- Sound analytical skills;
  - Sensitivity to political issues;
  - The ability to work to deadlines;
  - The ability to work with people at all levels.

Experience of Local Government is desirable.

For an informal chat ring Peter Rivett on Nottm (0602) 823245.

Application forms and job descriptions for the above 2 posts are available from the Staffing Officer, Office of the Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall, or by telephoning Nottm (0602) 823378 (at any time). Closing date 23 February. Please quote appropriate post title and reference.

The County Council welcomes applications from all, irrespective of gender, marital status, disability, race, age or sexual orientation.



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

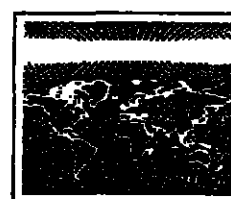
County Hall, West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7QP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Circa  
£70,000  
WANTED: A BUSINESS MANAGER  
FOR AN ENABLING COUNCIL

Excellence and innovation are the keynotes of West Sussex's management philosophy which has targeted the twin aims of high service standards and low levels of spending. Traditionally Conservative but far from conservative, it now seeks a new Chief Executive on John Hooley's retirement. With an increasing population of 720,000, a budget of £315m and the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the challenge will be to maintain and build on the current corporate style which exhibits all the tight-loose properties necessary to a well-led team of high calibre Chief Officers. High intellectual and creative ability, political sensitivity, firmness of purpose, a degree of presence, communication skills and a sense of humour, all these are essential, whilst experience of working in, or with local government is desirable. There are no departmental responsibilities; a proven track record will be more important than professional background.

Salary is in the range of £64,515 to £71,679 with a car leasing scheme.

Interested candidates should telephone for an application form and further details on 01-930 4334. Completed forms should be returned by 16th February to Michael Brandon, Director, Korn/Ferry International Ltd, Papyrus House, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 3DF. If you would like a brief preliminary discussion please speak to Jane Pollard, Associate Consultant.



**KORN/FERRY  
INTERNATIONAL**

**west sussex**



ISS is an expanding voluntary organisation, professionally staffed, whose field of activity is world-wide. It deals primarily with the problems which may affect people who have moved from one country to another. Its service is available to clients personally and as a tool to social workers and agencies who need overseas contacts. It operates through a network consisting of an International Headquarters in Geneva, a number of over-seas Branches and cooperating agencies where no Branch exists.

Most ISS Units have projects with special aspects of the work in their country and it is hoped to increase the number of these. In ISS (GB) help is urgently needed for the inter-country team and for project development. These posts are demanding but very interesting and absorbing.

Applicants should be qualified caseworkers with at least three years experience. Salary is on a scale rising to £13,000.

Applications should be sent to:

Miss W.I. Rouse, O.B.E.,  
Director  
International Social Service (GB),  
Cranmer House, 39 Brixton Road,  
London, SW9 6DD

by February 24th, 1990

## THE CITY &amp; HACKNEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

## DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Salary circa £33,780 + Performance Related Pay

This progressive inner city Health Authority, employing some 6,000 staff is currently undergoing major organisational change linked to the move towards achieving the objectives outlined in the White Paper "Working for Patients". Work is also underway on resource management and consideration is being given to seeking NHS Trust status.

We are looking for an experienced personnel manager who has broad based skills gained in a multi-disciplinary environment but not necessarily in the NHS, who is looking for a real challenge and who can lead and support us through the changes ahead.

Based at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, reporting to the District General Manager and functioning at Board level you will lead a team of experienced personnel specialists who are committed to providing a service of the highest quality.

Car lease scheme, relocation package, interest free season ticket loans are amongst some of the benefits associated with this position.

Interested applicants are advised to contact Dr. K.A.M. Grant, District General Manager on 01-601 8111 or, in the first instance, Jacky Barry, the existing postholder on 01-601 8116.

An information package is available from The Personnel Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE. Telephone 01-601 8117. Please quote reference DIR-1

Applications/CVs should be returned no later than Wednesday 22nd February 1990. Interviews will be held on 9th March 1990.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

## PUBLIC FINANCE

DUDLEY FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE  
(NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE)

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &amp; DATA SERVICES

Salary £21750 + PRP (3 YEAR ROLLING CONTRACT)

Responsible for financial management (£26m) patient registration, audit/value for money, drug and practice budgets and development of information technology and data services. This person will have substantial management skills and a determination to succeed in a changing environment. For information pack tel (0384) 239376 ext 126. For informal discussion contact General Manager.

Closing Date 1st March 1990

**DIARY  
OF  
THE TIMES  
CLASSIFIED**

The Times Classified columns are read by well over a million of the most affluent people in the country. The following categories appear regularly each week and are generally accompanied by relevant editorial articles. Use the coupon (right), and find out how easy, fast and economical it is to advertise in The Times Classified.

THE WORLD FAMOUS PERSONAL COLUMN, INCLUDING RENTALS, APPEARS EVERY DAY.

**MONDAY**  
Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships with editorial.  
La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments.

**TUESDAY**  
Legal Appointments: Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private and Public Practice with editorial.  
Public Sector Appointments: with editorial.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Creative & Media Appointments: Media in the Commercial Sector, La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments, Executive Creme for senior P.A. and secretarial position, Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, Commercial Property with editorial.  
Antiques & Collectables (Monthly) with editorial.

**THURSDAY**  
General Appointments: Banking and Accountancy, Engineering, Management, etc. with editorial.  
La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments.  
Science and Technology: Technology with editorial.

**FRIDAY**  
Motor & complete car buyers guide with editorial, Business to Business, Business opportunities, Yachts, Boats and Planes

**SATURDAY**  
Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Hotels, Flights, etc.  
Restaurants Guide: Where to eat in London and nationwide with editorial.  
Shoppers' Window: shopping from the comfort of your own home. Gardening.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £5 per line (Min. 3 lines only first word in bold); Boxes Display £27 per single column centimetre (Min. 3 centimetres); Court and Social £9 per line. All rates are subject to 15% VAT. Telephone on Classified Advertising Department on 01-481 4000 between 9am-6pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday, late evening 7.30pm on Wednesday, or send to: Pamela Hamilton-Dick, Group Classified Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd, P.O. Box 464, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

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Date of insertion \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please allow three working days prior to insertion date.)  
USE YOUR CREDIT CARD



## THE LAW

# Advocacy's quiet dilemma

In his article "Unite and Speak as One" (*The Times*, January 16), Sir Jonathan Clark wrote about what he called the "long-running dispute between solicitors and barristers".

Like me, Sir Jonathan began his professional life as a solicitor. I was a partner in an average-sized firm in a seaside town for almost 20 years before being appointed to the Circuit Bench.

The only difference between us is that I was never involved in Law Society politics — perhaps that is why, like all my present and former colleagues, I am unaware of such a "dispute".

There is a minute number of solicitors who wish to have the same rights of audience as barristers, but they are the most vociferous. The Lord Chancellor acknowledged that most solicitors who responded to the Green Paper on legal services opposed the extension of rights of audience. The reasons are obvious to anyone who knows anything about the legal profession in this country.

My average-sized firm was able to take on the largest firm of London solicitors in any litigation because we had the same access to the best barristers as it had. I could book a barrister by telephone and was able to advise my client on the best barristers for his case.



My firm and its clients had the same access to justice as the more wealthy clients who went to the big battalions.

A few large firms in the City of London, whose annual incomes are in millions of pounds, would like to have extended rights of audience. There is another difference between these firms and my old firm: they never do legal aid work. My firm always did

**'The talents a judge requires are different from those required of an advocate. It is common knowledge that the best advocates do not necessarily make the best judges'**

and, I believe, continues to do so.

A few local solicitors would like to try their hands at a jury trial. Since the unfortunate client comes to them and not to the barrister, he or she will not have independent advice on who is the best advocate for the case. The unfortunate client does not usually find out how bad the advocate is until he is

## Solicitors should not be given greater advocacy rights, Judge Balston argues

behind bars or until she has lost her claim for damages.

The training for advocacy is quite different from that required to be a good solicitor. The practice of a solicitor involves a lot of office work — a case is often won long before it is due to go to court.

A solicitor needs business acumen and the ability to deal with a number of different cases in one

day. He must be a good negotiator and a good communicator.

It is noteworthy that the Lord Chancellor has never claimed that the new proposals will lead to cheaper legal services for the public.

Anyone with knowledge of the legal system will know that this concession was correctly given.

The talents which the judge requires are different from those required of an advocate. It is common knowledge that the best advocates do not necessarily make the best judges.

Solicitors are extraordinarily successful in Europe and in many other countries abroad. Increased rights of audience are an irrelevance to this. The busy European lawyer has no time for court appearances.

It is worth noting that the Bar Council supports the Law Society in its opposition to these proposals.

Solicitors' expenses have increased substantially and there is no way they can be reduced. I found that it was often cheaper for my client to instruct a barrister to undertake the case than it was for one of the partners to take it on. I have no reason to believe the situation is any different now.

Solicitors have been fortunate in having legal executives to assist them. Although not a qualified solicitor, the legal executive has great experience.

However, in order to keep cases within their firms, I suspect that solicitors will have to press for rights of audience to be given to legal executives as well — it will be part of the solicitor's rights of audience. I believe this will be inevitable, although the rights sought will be limited at first.

The only "war" of which I am aware concerns the proposals on conveyancing. If implemented, these will mean that a person buying a house will have no independent advice, but will be looked after by a large financial institution whose main concern is to provide the finance for the transaction.

It is worth noting that the Bar Council supports the Law Society in its opposition to these proposals.

• The author is a circuit judge.



Judge Balston: most solicitors oppose extension of rights of audience

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## Law Report February 6 1990

### Overdose safety relevant in licensing of drug

*Regina v Department of Health and Social Security and Others, Ex parte Organon Laboratories Ltd*

Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment January 30]

The Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines Commission were wrong in refusing to hear evidence as to the comparative safety of an anti-depressant drug in overdose situations when considering the drug's safety for the purposes of section 28 of the Medicines Act 1968.

A consequential decision by the Department of Health and Social Security, based on the committee's and commission's advice and findings, to vary the provisions of the drug's product licence could therefore not stand.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the DHSS from the judgment of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Glidwell and Mr Justice Phillips) in February 1989 in proceedings for judicial review brought by Organon Laboratories Ltd and which quashed a decision letter imposing restrictions on the use of Mianserin by patients aged over 65.

The DHSS was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Section 28 of the Medicines Act 1968 provides: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part of this Act, the licensing authority may suspend a licence under this Part of the Act for such period as the authority may determine, or may revoke, or vary the provisions of, any such licence."

"(3) The powers conferred by this section shall not be exercisable by the licensing authority in relation to a product licence except on one or more of the following grounds: (a) that medicinal products of any description to which the licence relates can no longer be regarded as products which can safely be administered for the purposes indicated in the licence; ..."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Jonathan Mordant, QC for the DHSS; Mr Ronald Walker, QC and Mr Alexander Hill-Smith for Organon.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL said that in 1976 the DHSS, as licensing authority for the purposes of the Medicines Act 1968, issued Organon product licences permitting, *inter alia*, the sale and supply of prescription of the anti-depressant drug, Mianserin.

In 1988 the DHSS decided to amend these licences. Before arriving at that decision, the DHSS, as it was required by the Act to do, had taken the advice of the Committee on Safety of Medicines and the Medicines Commission.

Concern about the association between Mianserin and blood disorders had caused concern over the use of the drug, especially in regard to patients aged over 65. That had led to a provisional conclusion by the committee that use of the drug should be restricted.

Organon, exercising its rights under the Act, requested a hearing so that it could make representations to the committee and then to the commission as to why the provisional conclusion should not be affirmed.

At the hearing Organon wished to give evidence that Mianserin had a low toxicity when taken in excessive quantities, whether as a result of over-prescription, accidental departure by the patient from the prescribed dosage, ill-advised self-medication, or attempts at suicide, and a particularly low toxicity by comparison with other drugs aimed at the same illness.

However, the committee decided that safety in overdose was not a relevant factor in assessing the safety or harmfulness of a drug, which should be judged by reference to its normal dosage. Accordingly, the evidence was excluded from the hearing.

The Divisional Court decided that that was a misdirection. By shutting out the evidence in advance, the committee and then the commission, and hence the DHSS which had adopted their advice, had impermissibly narrowed their field of inquiry and unbalanced the exercise of the discretion to vary the licences.

The effect of the Divisional Court's judgment was not to require the DHSS to take into account in every case the degree of risk that a drug posed to the taking of a drug in excess.

It was for the committee to decide whether evidence of safety in overdose was the kind of material which could prove valuable in performing the judgmental exercise called for by section 28.

The Divisional Court had not held that the committee was bound to admit Organon's evidence but that by deciding in advance not to do so it had foreclosed on the performance of exercising its discretion.

The committee and the DHSS would only have been entitled to act as they had if the relevant legislation posed a question to which "safety in overdose" could on no view of the matter be relevant.

It followed that the appeal was dependent on the meaning of the relevant legislation.

[His Lordship went on to consider in detail and to reject the submission of the DHSS that the governing legislation, which contained in Council Directive 65/65/EEC, and in particular in article 11, rather than the Medicines Act 1968 and continued:]

Section 28(3) created an exclusive list of grounds on which the question of variation of a licence could arise: whether in the light of changed circumstances some alteration to the licence ought to be made.

In considering ground (a), what test should be applied to decide whether Mianserin could "safely" be "administered" for the purpose of alleviating depression?

There was no absolute standard of safety. Few drugs were entirely free from the risk of inducing side effects in some patients. The question had always to be whether the degree of risk was sufficiently low to be acceptable and that could not be addressed without an appreciation of the benefits to be gained from taking a risk of that sort.

Paragraph (a) was not to be read in the narrow sense for which the DHSS contended. The references to "administered" and "purposes" were to be taken as extending beyond strict compliance with the intended use of the drug, and the risks attaching to misuse could properly be brought into account.

Further, section 28(3)(g) entitled the DHSS to pay regard to the risks associated with the use of other drugs intended for the same purposes. Such comparisons might not prove helpful in every case but to rule out such considerations was not in accordance with the requirements of the section.

The committee, the commission and the DHSS had misdirected themselves as to the nature of the exercise demanded of them by the Act.

The quashing of the decision was the only possible outcome since it could not be said that if the evidence in question had been admitted, the decision would inevitably have been the same.

Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed. Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor, Watsons & More.



THE LAW

# The crisis in our law schools

Funding shortages have left Britain's law schools in tatters, Frances Gibb reports

University law schools are in crisis. At a time when demand for law graduates has never been higher, law schools are so strapped for cash that within a few years, professors predict, there will not be enough teaching staff to produce the necessary students.

The staff who remain, they say, will be of increasingly poor quality. The crisis is two-fold. First, there is the problem of low academic salaries. This is common to all disciplines. But in law the problem is worsened by the rewards available in the private profession. The problems of staff retention and recruitment are now acute.

Professor Graham Zellick, Draper professor of law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, wrote in the *Law Society Gazette* recently: "Salary levels are now so poor and compare so unfavourably — not only with lucrative City practices or the commercial Bar, but with the



Trinity College, Cambridge: the calm exterior belies a host of problems facing Britain's university law schools

Civil Service and private sector teaching — that a career in university teaching no longer attracts the academically gifted.

A survey last autumn by 35 heads of law departments in universities throughout England and Wales warned of a critical staff shortage because of the exodus of top teaching staff. The survey disclosed an "alarming" and accelerating loss of 127 members of staff over five years, a quarter of the law teachers in the 35 departments.

The second problem facing law schools is funding. For years the average student costs in law have been the lowest of any subject; the unit of resource taken as the benchmark for funding has also been the lowest.

The reason is historical. Law has always responded to increased student demand by absorbing more students without a matching rise in resources.

Under the Universities Funding Council's new system of funding,

## INNS AND OUTS

### Trade unions to the rescue

As the number of cases qualifying for legal aid falls every year, more people are turning to legal services provided by trade unions. A survey last month by Labour Research of 36 unions showed that more than 100,000 people had used their legal services in the past year. In the last 12-month period for which figures are available, more than £165 million in compensation was obtained for union members.

Most cases handled through union legal departments are claims for compensation for accident or industrial injury, and in most of these external solicitors firms are used. The most frequently appearing name in the survey was Thompsons, which acts for NALGO, ACTU, MSF, NUPE and SOGAT 52. The highest recorded award in the period was £450,000, for a member of the NUPE, which instructed Pattinson & Brewer. The link between unions and certain solicitors firms is well established, with some unions using the same firm for all their work and others, such as the TGWU, using more than 80 firms nationwide. Other unions, such as the NUT and NALGO, have large in-house legal departments employing qualified solicitors. It is also becoming common for unions to negotiate special deals, such as cut-price conveyancing or advice hot-lines, with certain firms. Unionlaw, launched last July by the TUC, gives union members access to a free initial interview and a costs estimate in personal and domestic claims from any of the 2,000 Unionlaw solicitors who have agreed to be bound by a code of practice laying down standards of service.

Does the Bar feel that it scored an important victory when Lord Mackay introduced an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill which will add the "proper and efficient administration of justice" to the Bill's aims? The amendment has been widely viewed as the Bar's best chance of defeating the assault on its exclusive rights of audience. Last Wednesday's press release from the General Council of the Bar, entitled "Chairman of the Bar urges joint action with Law Society", suggests that the Bar is feeling pleased with developments. Why else would it choose this point to hold out the olive branch to solicitors? "The time has come to make common cause. The time has come to stop airing our differences in public," the release proclaims. "There is so much to be achieved by working together where we are at one." The release also expresses concern about legal aid, the overloading and under-funding of the county courts and, strangest of all, the fate of high street solicitors in light of the Government's proposed conveyancing reforms. What can this sudden burst of altruistic concern mean, and where will this new-found friendship lead?

Is the key to a law firm's success to be found in its kitchen? Next Monday, staff at Theodore Goddard will be put to the test. The firm has bought in Leith's Good Food to cater for its new offices. Freshfields is following suit in March. Sally Proctor, of Leith's, says: "Lawyers are funny about the standard of food they are eating. Leith's goes back a long way with the legal profession — 25 years ago founder Pru Leith cooked for McKenna's three partners. The company has catered for Stanger and May since 1964, and for Linklaters & Paines since 1967. With the contract worth more than £100,000 a year to Leith's, what Theodore Goddard's clients think of their lawyers taking into gourmet meals is not clear. But there will be few complaints from "down below" as staff savour prawn bisque soup, beef and orange casserole or old-fashioned shepherd's pie in a 24-hour canteen. Perhaps a course at Leith's School of Food and Wine will soon be accredited under the Law Society's continuing education scheme.

Scrivener

## To the East on tiptoe

Western investors are waiting for clearer policies to emerge before undertaking large joint ventures in Eastern Europe.

There is a pressing need for foreign investment in all Eastern European economies and their governments will be hoping for quick results to build up confidence among western investors. When projects do begin to appear, they are likely to follow a pattern similar to that seen after the introduction of joint venture laws in China during the late 1970s.

Most early joint ventures will try to limit dependence on local raw materials, semi-finished products or components, preferring to make use of a pool of cheap labour thrown up by the shake-out in the state sector. The western partner will structure the

arrangement to ensure that sufficient earnings are in hard currency, and can be collected offshore to meet foreign currency obligations.

As usual, hotels will lead. These will be followed by office developments for tenants paying hard currency. But there will also be many projects assembling imported components for re-export or processing domestic raw materials for overseas sale.

Joint ventures serving the domestic market are unlikely to appear in significant numbers until the dust thrown up by the restructuring programme begins to settle. More importantly, investors will

want to establish the true limits of local currency conversion.

Most early joint ventures will be thinly capitalized, often in the form of contribution in kind (such as second-hand production machinery), rather than in cash. Because of the large accumulated arrears of foreign debt, there is unlikely to be extensive access to commercial bank lending. Many export credit agencies still hold Eastern European countries on risk.

Beyond the limits of export credit funding, commercial bank finance is likely to be limited to more specific projects. These will often be

secured on a commitment to deliver products offshore to generate sales proceeds sufficient for debt services needs.

More promising, perhaps, is the prospect of funding for infrastructure projects from the embryonic European bank.

In all joint ventures, a constant preoccupation will be political risk and the fear that political and economic development could be undone as suddenly and spectacularly as it flowered. Overseas investment insurance, provided under the auspices of national export credit agencies, will play a part in safeguarding western invest-

ment. However, some projects may benefit from more innovative quasi-political risk guarantees afforded by the participation of the supra-national lending agencies in the financing of a project.

Poland's programme of reform is the first, and by far the most ambitious, of those contemplated in Eastern Europe. Change has been forced on the government by the extent of the country's economic woes. However, the rapid changes in Poland may deter western investors from proceeding there as quickly as elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

The more modest reforms contemplated in those coun-

tries may offer a less threatening base from which to exploit the advantages of access to a pool of low-cost educated labour.

Eastern Europe in 1990 is no place for the idealist or starry-eyed optimist. Joint venture projects will be cautiously assessed and will be long-term, strategic moves rather than opportunistic speculation.

However, wary western investors view these projects, it is hard not to sympathize with the new generation of leaders, who must now be reflecting bitterly on Lenin's aphorism: "Communism is Soviet power plus the electrification of the whole country."

Adrian Montague

● The author is head of the projects and assets group at Linklaters & Paines.

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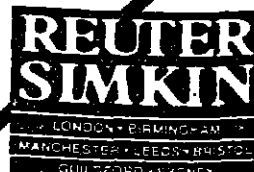
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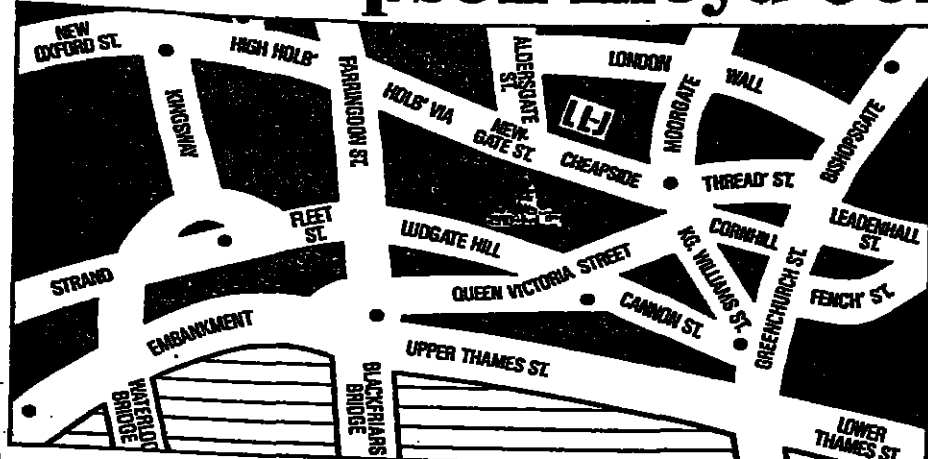


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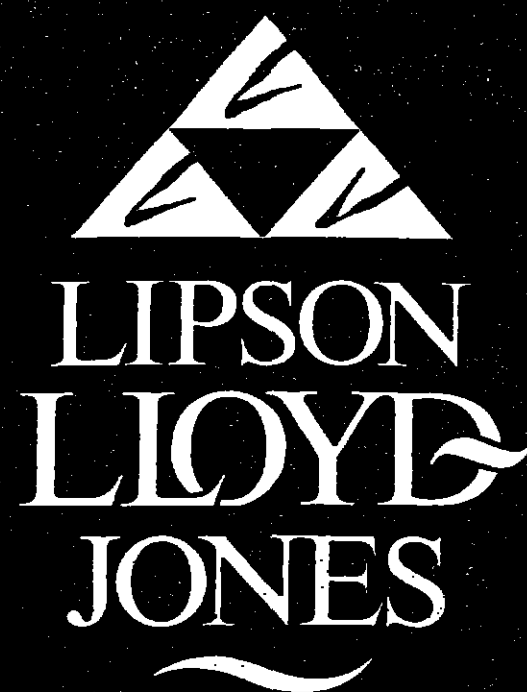
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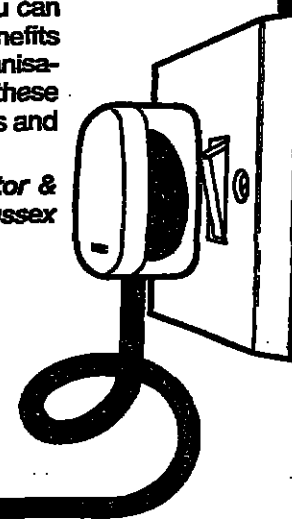
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Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae to Mrs M. Frans, Personnel Supervisor, Monsanto Services International SA, avenue de Tervuren 270-272, B-1150 Brussels, Belgium.

**Monsanto**







# Woodgate to regain winning ways in Warwick's cup test

By Mandaia

Playchool, the 1987 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup winner, continues on the comeback trail at Warwick today when he has to concede 26lb to 10 rivals in the George Coney Challenge Cup.

Since starting favourite for and pulling up in that season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, Playchool has been beaten by Mander's Way just twice.

On his only start last season, Playchool ran a sound race when he beat second to Golden Fiance (see 1989) at Cheltenham and here at Warwick today he has to concede 26lb to 10 rivals in the George Coney Challenge Cup.

While he would be capable, at his best, of successfully giving the weight to today's opponents, David Barrow's 12-year-old may be best watched until he has shown clear signs of regaining his sparkle and Woodgate is preferred on this occasion.

My selection won successive staying handicap chases at Devon, Towcester and Folkestone last season with arguably his best performance coming at Towcester in February when he gave Mander's Way the subsequent Thymeless Chase winner, 6lb and a four-length beating.



Dudley Moffatt chasing treble with Brompton Road. After two firsts at Newbury and here at Warwick this season, Woodgate should now be ready to do himself justice and he may have most to fear from Against The Grain, who would have a clear chance if able to reproduce the form of his one-length second to Ten Fins (see 1989) in last season's Mander's Chase at Newbury.

Earlier in the afternoon, the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier has thrown up a fascinating clash between the trouble-seeking Ri-Na-Rithann and Mander's Way, who landed a mighty gamble with some style on his racecourse debut at Folkestone.

Bought privately out of Mick O'Toole's yard, Mander's Way looks very much Cheltenham material and, in receipt of 5lb, is

strongly fancied to end Ri-Na-Rithann's winning run.

For the part, though, I go north to Carlisle where Brompton Road has outstanding prospects of completing a treble in the Hethersall Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle.

Trained in Worcestershire by Liam Codd when a good winner at Eddisbury last season, Brompton Road has taken time to acclimatise to his new surroundings but struck form in December when a 30-length winner over three miles at Bangor.

At 10 days ago, Brompton Road outstayed the useful Waterford close home over 2 1/2 miles, with the emphasis very much on stamina today, Dudley Moffatt's charge is preferred to Marcelina and the promising Smithonian.

Furlana Wender, whose form last season when trained by Tommy Carberry included a four-length second to Carville's Hill at level weights, has his first run for Jonjo O'Neill in the Kingmoor Handicap Chase and, even with 11st 10lb, does not appear harshly treated.

Hey Cottage, a well-beaten fifth behind Fort Noel at Haydock last time, will appreciate the drop in class in the EBF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier while Star A Friend, granted a clear round, has the ability to win a competitive Bet With The Tote Novices' Chase Qualifier.

## Desert Orchid now an Ascot probable

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Desert Orchid will run in the Listed Chatterbox Handicap Chase at Ascot tomorrow unless there is a serious deterioration in the weather before the race.

Following the abandonment of Sandown on Saturday, Racing in Wessex Chase, a £25,000 conditions race for grey's next outing but, after walking the Ascot course yesterday afternoon, the Whinbury trainer has opted for tomorrow's £35,000 handicap at the Berkshire track.

"The ground has improved remarkably and I would say it's no worse than good to soft," Elsworth said. "It could even be good by Wednesday if it continues to dry out. Showers are not forecast for the area, but not necessarily for Ascot and only if it came up heavy before the race would we take him out."

Desert Orchid has 12 stone in the Ascot handicap where his possible opponents include Ruse De Fiance (10st 6lb), Ten Of Spades (9st 9lb), Man O'War (9st 10lb) and Willford (9st 13lb).

Desert Orchid's Grand National weight, the subject of great speculation, will be announced in London today. "If he gets more than 12st 2lb, I won't be surprised," Elsworth said. "If he gets less than 12st 2lb, we'll be very lucky."

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# Schofield gets off to flying start with double

Point-to-point

By Brian Beel

Philip Schofield, the 1988 riding champion, made a good start to the point-to-point season with a double from two rides at the North Cornwall meeting on Saturday.

In the open, Mike Felton always had Sutton Prince, the favourite, in a handy position but Schofield took up the running four out on Golden Link, who stayed on strongly

under pressure to win by a length from Warren Bridge. Riding Golden Link's six-year-old full sister, Golden Echo, in the maiden, Schofield had to call on all his skill to stay in the saddle after a bad blunder three out.

By then, after a series of mishaps, Schofield had only Varrock, of the eight starters, left to beat and he did this comfortably by eight lengths.

The Grand Marnier champion, For A Lark, started where he left off by winning the ladies' open for Mandy Turner by a distance from Dicky Bligh, the only other finisher in a field of 10. His task was, however, made easier by the 33-1 chance Corder and winning Kadir Ellis when going well just ahead of the favourite.

John Duffee trained the first two, Some Power and Ascent, in the restricted race while 53-year-old George Turner landed the adjacent on Bishop.

opric, a trifle luckily, when Fiddler's Pike fell two out, hampering Brushford in the process.

Ready Steady, who won six races in 1988, is now back with his former trainer, Selby, after winning a Hedges service chase but generally disappointing under Rules last year. At the Old Lady Hunt Club on Saturday he relished racing between the flags again and won the open by a distance under John Crossick.

The win of Rosemary Boy for Jill Dawson in the ladies' open, by a similar distance, followed the last fence fall of the 14-year-old, Mandy Moore, ridden by Sandra Forster, who was still in touch at the time.

Although not always fluent, Old Nick had a relatively easy task in the Auldquist under Nigel Smith, coming home 10 lengths ahead of Duncannon, who on this showing must soon be losing his maiden certificate.

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## WARWICK

Selections  
By Mandaia

1.00 Non Permanent.  
1.30 Mander's Way.  
2.00 Woodgate.  
2.30 Eastern Destiny.

3.00 Pertemps Network.  
3.30 Croix De Guerre.  
4.00 Mister Half-Chance.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.30 MANDER'S WAY (nap).  
Brian Beel's selection: 2.30 More Action.

Going: soft (heavy patches)

1.0 RYTON NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,500; 2m) (15 runners)

1. 101-102 RYTON NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,500; 2m) (15 runners)

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## 2.30 AIR WEDDING HUNTERS TROPHY CHASE (Amateurs: £1,500; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

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TENNIS: SWEDEN FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF PLAYING BRITAIN IN DAVIS CUP QUALIFIER AFTER SURPRISE DEFEAT BY ITALY

# Cane claims victory for Italians after a marathon cup-tie

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

Sweden, finalists in the Davis Cup for the last seven years, and champions four times, were astonishingly beaten 3-2 by Italy in the first round in Cagliari yesterday. In the deciding set of the final rubber, held over after bad weather stopped play on Sunday, with the score at two sets each, Paolo Cane beat Mats Wilander, ending a marathon tie of 22 sets played over 3½ days.

As ever when Italy are involved, the final moments were touched with high drama. Serving to lead 6-5, the Italian fell heavily on the clay court, but recovered quickly to win the point and the game with a desperate backhand.

In the next game, he broke

Wilander to bring Italy their first win over Sweden for 10 years. After the final smash was put away, Cane was mobbed by the crowd and his colleagues.

"I certainly wouldn't want to have to play that match again," Cane said. "I felt incredible pressure on me, but something inside me said I must not snap. I always believed in this victory."

The tie was a personal triumph for Cane, aged 24, the self-confessed bad boy of Italian tennis who, a year ago, refused to play in the Davis Cup after a dispute with the team captain, Adriano Panatta.

Returning from suspension by his national federation,

Cane won his opening singles against Jonas Svensson in five sets, and teamed up with Diego Nargiso to win the crucial doubles match against Anders Jarryd and Jan Gunnarsson.

Italy, Davis Cup winners in 1976, now meet Austria in the quarter-finals, while Sweden, just six weeks after losing the final 3-2 to West Germany, face the ignominy of having to win a qualifying round match in September to stay in the world group.

Only time will tell whether this marks the beginning of the end of Sweden's recent domination of tennis, but the defeat by one of the weaker teams in the world group highlights their dependence on Stefan Edberg, who asked not to be considered for the tie even before he was injured against Ivan Lendl in the final of the Australian Open.

Sweden could meet Britain in the qualifying round if Britain beat Romania in Bucharest in early May.

The only other upset in the world group matches was New Zealand's defeat of Yugoslavia, last year's semi-finalists. The rubber turned on a controversial over-rule by the umpire in the final game of the fifth set of the reverse singles, between Wally Masur and Henri Leconte.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS: West Germany v Argentina; New Zealand v Australia; Sweden v Czechoslovakia; Austria v Italy. (Matches to be played from March 30 to April 1.)



Power stroke: Chris Bailey, of Norfolk, on his way to upsetting Lars Wahlberg, the top seed, 6-4, 6-4, in the £50,000 LTA Challenger men's tournament at Telford yesterday

## British pair victorious

Wellington — Both Clare Wood and Sarah Loosemore recorded victories at the Farnham Classic in New Zealand yesterday (Barry Wood writes).

Although a qualifying match, Loosemore's 6-1, 6-0 win over Yael Segal, of Israel, was more interesting because the result means she plays Anne Huber, aged 15, who is considered to be Steve Graf's heir, in the first round. The pair played last week in a qualifying match in Auckland, with Loosemore winning in three sets.

Loosemore's match was also less error-prone than Wood's 7-5, 6-2 first-round win over Michelle Jaggard, of Sydney. Because of rain, it was played indoors, and the competitors

were not hindered by the blinding rain which disrupted outdoor matches last night.

Loosemore's serve was occasionally stiff a cause for concern, but overall it was sound, and her forehand and movement of the ball were first class. She used her length well and hit to a good length as Segal, a busy player with good anticipation, loudly voiced her frustrations.

Wood did not begin to overcome the conditions until late in the match, which was turned by 17 double faults. After a difficult start Wood had a far more determined attitude than she displayed against Robin White last week. She recovered from 3-1 in the first set, and won the last five games.

## ROWING

### Leading clubs attack ARA management

Nineteen leading clubs met at Leander in Surrey to discuss the management problems of the Amateur Rowing Association (a Special Correspondent writes).

Those present resolved to express their dissatisfaction with the Association's management and expressed doubt that the existing management could rectify the situation.

Resolutions called for more coaching and technical help to clubs, greater regional representation and expressed doubt that the existing management could rectify the situation.

The latter resolution could encourage more members to register, something which the ARA desperately needs.

## ICE HOCKEY

### Racers register record run

By Norman de Mesquita

Murrayfield Racers took their unbeaten Heineken League premier division run to a record 17 games last weekend, but it was a close call.

In the West Midlands on Saturday, a 7-5 win over Solihull Bears enabled them to equal Durham Wasps' record, a two-goal margin, did little justice to the morale side's contribution to a marvellous game. Leo Koopmans, the Racers' coach, described it as "the toughest game we have had for many months".

On Sunday, leading 6-4 with 11 minutes to go at home to Nottingham Panthers, Racers appeared ready to celebrate their record in the appropriate manner.

However, two goals in 15 seconds by Keith Stewart, the second with an extra attacker on

the ice in place of the goalkeepers, enabled Panthers to level the scores. Racers had to be content with a draw, but the record was theirs nonetheless.

There was also an exciting finish in Kirkcaldy on Saturday, with Alexander Kozhennikov netting the winning goal for Panthers against 5th Place Flyers with only seconds remaining. The Soviet forward had a productive weekend, with five goals and three assists in two games.

Peterborough Pirates' success continued when they outscored their fourth consecutive opponent at the hands of Cardiff Devils, but it could have been different had they kept their heads in the closing stages.

Having drawn to within one goal of a hat-trick, the Pirates took 22 minutes penalties in the final 77 seconds

and conceded two more goals.

Sleight Jets maintained their lead in the first division, and their home win over Telford Tigers was their thirteenth in a row. Medway Bears beat Streatham Redskins, which made up for the loss of the two points they had deducted because of irregularities over the referee's decision to award a goal from Lee Valley Lions.

RESULTS: Heineken League: Premier division: 1. Murrayfield Racers 7-5 Solihull Bears; 2. Durham Wasps 7-5 5th Place Flyers; 3. Peterborough Pirates 5-2 Cardiff Devils; 4. Nottingham Panthers 6-4 Nottingham Panthers; 5. Cardiff Devils 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 6. Peterborough Pirates 5-2 Nottingham Panthers; 7. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 8. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 9. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 10. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 11. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 12. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 13. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 14. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 15. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 16. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 17. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 18. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 19. Nottingham Panthers 5-2 Peterborough Pirates; 20. 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